

NEWS IN SUMMARY



Mr. Stephen Carleton: Second IRA killing this year.

UDR man is shot dead in Belfast

A part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment was murdered by the IRA in Belfast yesterday shortly after going to work at a petrol station, of which he had recently been appointed manager (our Belfast Correspondent writes).

Three killers drove to the filling station in a green Cavalier car. Two of them shot Mr. Stephen Carleton six times in the head and body killing him instantly. Mr. Carleton, aged 25, of Burrell Drive, Carrickfergus, co. Antrim, was married with a young son.

The gunman abandoned the Cavalier, which had been hijacked, in Hopefield Avenue and escaped in another car.

The killing is the second by the IRA this year. A booby trap car bomb attack in New castle severely injured a UDR member and killed his friend.

Efforts to find a joint prospective Unionist candidate for the Belfast seat held by the late Mr. Robert Bradford are unlikely to come to fruition.

Mr. Bradford, who was murdered by IRA, territory, said years ago that he favoured unity between the two parties.

His widow, Mrs. Norah Bradford, has invited Mr. James Moynihan, the Official Unionist leader, and the Rev. Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionists, to a meeting on Monday to consider the matter.

Dearest beer and cigarettes

Imperial Tobacco, Britain's biggest tobacco manufacturer, is raising its prices and a packet of 20 cigarettes will go up by 2p (Derek Harris writes).

It blames higher costs for the rise, which will be effective from January 8. Beer prices rise, amounting to 4p on a pint at the bar for all draught beer except mild, are being put through on Monday by Ind Coope, part of Allied Breweries, in East Anglia and the south of England.

Death grant rise delay attacked

Mr. George Foulkes, Labour MP for Ayrshire, said yesterday that the delay in announcing a change in the death grant, which has stood at £30 since 1967, was prolonging the agony for many old people.

He said that clear and unequivocal promises were given in Parliament that a decision would be made before Christmas.

Swan & Edgar shuts today

Today is the last day of trading for the Swan & Edgar department store, in Piccadilly Circus, one of the great Victorian landmarks of central London.

The fate of the building, which is listed, is still uncertain. Debenhams has refused to disclose the name of the new leaseholder.

TV dispute ends

Journalists at STV, the Glasgow-based commercial television company, have returned to work after assurances that a claim by editors earning £13,000 a year for increases of up to £5,000 will be examined in detail. News and sports programmes were blacked out.

"Drowned" Princess still works.

When someone drowns a four year old Princess the owner thought he'd seen the last of it.

The car was found by divers eight months later - at the bottom of a flooded quarry.

Out of curiosity they fitted a new battery to see if the engine would turn over.

It started immediately.

Steel union bans all overtime from next month

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The largest steel union last night ordered an overtime ban to start in a month's time. It claims the action could force the British Steel Corporation to hire thousands of extra workers to maintain production.

A meeting of the executive of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation decided to impose the ban in protest at further job cuts planned by the corporation, and the management's refusal to make a national pay award this year.

The union has also been angered by BSC's decision not to introduce a reduced working week from this month.

BSC gave a warning last night that the overtime ban could jeopardize jobs and lead to plant closures. Mr. Peter Broxham, the corporation's director of industrial relations, said that even partial support from the workforce could damage the fragile recovery in the order position.

The union's leaders claim that large amounts of overtime have been worked in BSC plants as a result of the big redundancy programme which has seen 93,000 jobs disappear over the last two years.

The corporation's plan to shed a further 15,000 jobs out of the current 106,000 workforce. Mr. William Sirs, BSC general secretary, said that the union's plan to save jobs and the overtime ban may well force BSC to recruit.

"The reason we have given notice of the ban from February 1st is to give BSC time to recruit as many men

as best they can," Mr. Sirs said. He added that up to 10,000 new workers might be needed to maintain current production.

He believed that morale at BSC was "very low, and the management have been treating the workforce in the most appalling manner. Now the workers have said 'enough is enough' and we are going to stand our ground."

Union leaders are unhappy with the local self-funding pay deals which the corporation has offered this year instead of a national award. They object to the fact that they are to be treated as "one-year bonuses" and will not be consolidated into basic rates for next year's pay negotiations.

The union also believes that those plants which agree to large job losses will benefit most from the local productivity settlements, and has therefore also called a ban from February 7 on negotiations covering flexibility and improved working methods.

Mr. Sirs and his executive were particularly scathing about the corporation's refusal to introduce the 39-hour working week from the beginning of this month. The strike team headed by Lord Lever of Manchester, which brought an end to the 13-week national steel strike in 1980, rejected the introduction of the shorter week and an agreement was signed by both the union and BSC.

BSC is hoping this year to halve its 1981 losses and is aiming at least to break even next year.

BR invites unions to talks on rail strike

By Our Labour Reporter

British Rail last night invited its three unions to a meeting on Monday for fresh talks aimed at averting next week's threatened two-day train drivers' strike.

The meeting was called after the National Union of Railwaymen, which has accepted flexible rostering for most of its members, adopted a militant stance over BR's refusal to give a 3 per cent pay rise to 500 drivers.

The payment is being denied to the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen because it has refused to accept the new rostering. The NUR drivers said they would accept flexible rostering for most of its members, adopted a militant stance over BR's refusal to give a 3 per cent pay rise to 500 drivers.

The white-collar Transport Salaried Staffs Association will also attend Monday's meeting, but last night it was not certain that ASLEF leaders were prepared to go to BR with the other two unions.

Mr. Raymond Buckton, ASLEF's general secretary, told BR that his nine-man executive would have to be consulted and he could not say until Monday morning whether the union would accept flexible rostering, replacing

His union has not been prepared to enter negotiations on flexible rostering, replacing

Sealink inquiry sought

By Robert Jones

Mr. John Newman, assistant general secretary of the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association, the union whose strike has halted British Rail's Sealink ferries, said yesterday that an independent investigation should be made into Sealink's plans for its services.

An independent chairman should be appointed to examine the company's plans, port by port, because Sealink cannot be trusted, he said.

Sealink was being mismanaged, with services being withdrawn or cut back arbitrarily. The company had embarked on a campaign of drastic cuts which it had no intention of discussing with the officers.

"This week it is the turn of Harwich and Newhaven, but who knows where the axe is going to fall next," he said.

The officers' strike was precipitated by the announcement on Monday that Sealink was pulling out of the Newhaven to Lerne and making 240 officers and men redundant. Seamen on the Sealink ferry at

Newhaven began a sit-in. The vessel is in the only suitable berth, sailings from Newhaven to Dieppe have stopped.

On Wednesday night, after more redundancies had been announced at Harwich, the officers' union called for a strike against all Sealink ships.

There were no sailings yesterday to Ireland from Holyhead, Fishguard or Stranraer and no British Sealink services on cross-channel routes. However, scheduled sailings by Sealink's French, Belgian and Dutch partners coped with the light traffic usual at this time of year.

The National Union of Seamen, which has given full support to the Seafarers' union, has not yet decided whether to strike. Since the officers have stopped all British-owned Sealink ferries, there would be little point in the seamen joining the action at this stage.

Sealink services between Harwich and Newhaven have been suspended indefinitely because of the strike.

PARENTS BACK TEACHER

Mr. Wayne Williams, the teacher suspended from duty at Llanidloes High School, in mid Wales after the granting of a High Court injunction, was defended yesterday by a parent.

Mr. Williams, 45, whose wife is secretary of the parent-teacher association.

He said: "The whole affair is a scandal and a clear case of injustice and intolerance." He said his wife and other parents supported his view.

Parents feel aggrieved at the way children's education is being disrupted.

Mr. Williams, a former chairman of the Welsh Language Society, was sent to prison last year for conspiring to damage broadcasting equipment. He was freed two days before Christmas after being told by Powys County Council that he could have his job back.

But parents were granted the injunction earlier this week. He has been suspended from duty until the High Court hears the parents' objections to his teaching their children.



Up for grabs: Cup-price china, and time to make a choice, at Harrods yesterday.

Bargain hunters but no bustle at Harrods

Yesterday's bad weather helped rather than hindered what is traditionally the fastest and most furious retailing in Britain, the first day of Harrods' sale (Robin Young writes).

The Knightsbridge store is usually besieged by thousands of impatient bargain hunters who begin to gather in the early morning. In yesterday's heavy snow each entrance had mustered barely a porch-full of people by 9 am, when the management counted down the final seconds to opening time by loudspeaker.

The phalanx of security men, usually required to save the relentless surge of shoppers from trampling one another to death at the foot of the escalators, this time held them back just long enough to fill the foyer for photographers. The rush of customers up the escalators

was much less impressive than the earlier invasion by the 6,000 sales staff required to cope with them. In the sale of china on the third floor dinner service hunters were able to race along the counters gathering plates by the armful without breaking thousands of pounds of crockery in ill-tempered collision with competitors.

The first arrivals in the television and radio department even had the luxury of a few moments' thought before deciding which shop-soled model with remote control and Teletext they would buy for £495, with £200 off. A regular customer in the 18-plus fitting rooms for larger women's dresses said she had never had three assistants and a fitting room to herself at the sale before.

"On the other hand, I spent three times as much as I intended as a

result." In men's wear the queues, which usually make the gangways impassable, were quite short, but the cashiers were "never idle." Things are going much more swiftly and smoothly than usual, one supervisor commented. "We have actually got time for choice to watch out that no one is slipping off in an unpaid-for new cashmere overcoat." Fittings seem to be well on target.

In women's swimwear the fitting room curtains had been removed for security. But the usual melle, which might have caused some unintended exposure, was missing. At 10.15 there were just three customers in the department, and almost no more than 65m by closing time, and indications were that despite the worst of the weather could do the target was likely to be achieved.

The big freeze worsens

Shoppers will feel the pinch

By a Staff Reporter

Shoppers for fresh vegetables will be among the first to feel the economic impact of yesterday's harsh weather. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Bureau revised its Thursday bulletin of fresh produce prices and said that sprouts would cost up to 35p a pound, compared with the range of 18p to 24p quoted in the bulletin.

Many home-grown fresh vegetables cost at least half as much again as they did in the milder conditions of a year ago, but some produce, mainly imported, costs the same as last year. Cabbage, which resists frost better than most vegetables, costs the same as a year ago.

Home-grown cauliflowers are almost unobtainable, and the country is relying on imports, which cost at least 50p each. Carrots cost at least 20p, compared with about 10p a year ago, and potatoes are being increasingly imported by the spring. It will have some effect on the lambing percentage because of the condition of the ewes," he said from his farm near Ponteland, Northumberland.

It is becoming very expensive for livestock farmers in the north of England, but it is early days yet to estimate exactly what the effect will be. The fact that these conditions are continuing on such a wide scale means that we are thinking of the possibility of asking for government assistance."

Housewives faced with freezing milk on the doorstep should spare a thought for milkmen struggling to deliver it and the dairies trying to collect it from farms and distribute it (Frances Gibb writes).

Mr. Frank Attenborough, district manager for Express Dairies, said yesterday: "It's the worst for 45 years. We are still waiting for the cream lorry to come up from Devon. It should have been here by now but we have not found it and not has the creamery."

The missing consignment represented the total cream supply for all Express Dairies' customers in London, including hotels and other catering establishments.

The Cooperative Retail Services dairy in west London had not received any of its milk supply from Somerset and was relying on stock. One of its milkmen said his round had taken five hours instead of the usual two.

Some bottling plants faced a shortage of milk and asked the Milk Marketing Board for extra supplies. The board said that the first priority was to satisfy the liquid milk market and then manufacturers dealing with the most valuable products such as cheese.



A Trident airliner being lifted at Heathrow.

Abandoned sport fixtures lose millions for clubs

By Staff Reporters

Association football, rugby, and racing have been equally affected by the snow and ice, floods, and the financial effects of postponements and cancellations vary greatly from sport to sport.

Football clubs, with their large overhead expenses, are the worst affected. At least six clubs in the lower divisions, including Halifax and Tranmere, faced acute financial difficulties before the latest bad weather.

Overall, 21st Football League games had been put off this season before today. Stockport County, Darlington and Rochdale have not played at home for six weeks.

Over Christmas the total loss of gate money estimated at £1m. Luton Town, for instance, lost £10,000 from the postponement of one game, normally one of the most lucrative of the season.

Attendances over the last four weeks at league matches totalled 637,000, compared with 2.1 million for the same period last year. The lowest total gate of the season was 446,000, on December 5.

Matches postponed from a Saturday rarely attract an equivalent crowd when played in midweek and sponsorship is often lost as well. Moreover, even where matches have been played attendances have been affected. In addition some clubs are having to increase their debts to pay wages.

Racing has also been badly affected. With the abandonment of today's three meetings at Sandown, Haydock and Warrick, 57 fixtures have been lost and a total of £725,950 in prize money. If the freeze-up continues the industry could be faced with double the amount of losses usually caused by hard winter weather.

The financial effects on race courses, however, are generally much less serious than those on football clubs. Mr. Mark Kershaw, clerk of the course at Kempton Park, said: "We

would have been lucky to attract a crowd of more than 3,500 today and on that we would have about broken even. Cancellation means that we have lost about £1,000 for the printing of race cards and a bit more for other incidentals."

Racing is entering the season of the big money events and its fortunes depend on the weather over the next three months. If it is good the year's output might still be not much below normal; if bad, losses could be the most serious for some time.

The loss of today's leading Rugby Union fixture between the Barbarians and the touring Australians at Cardiff will have affected all four home countries financially, as the takings are split.

Leading clubs may lose about £1,500 when a game is cancelled because of the weather. No comparison can be made with the overheads of professional football clubs, and rugby clubs would hope to get by on the few widows from alternative social fixtures, hire of rooms, club draws and competitions.

Insurers and councils count cost

By Staff Reporters

Insurance companies will have to pay out many millions when the storms from York strike flood victims roll in. "It is too early to say what the final total will be," the British Insurance Association said.

But claims after the floods in January 1978, peaked at £15m in the week ending December 1979, in South Wales, cost insurers £27m. This year's floods are considered to be worse.

Floodwater has largely receded in York but Selby is on the alert as an exceptionally high tide is due on Monday and Tuesday and will hit the city. "One thing is certain, it is not expected to affect York."

Most of York's historic buildings have been unaffected, but the basement of the Merchant Adventurers' Hall was flooded.

Road clearance bills mount

County councils in the area which have encountered serious snow have followed by flooding before Christmas are concerned that money put aside for emergencies on the roads - caused by extreme weather - will not last the winter.

Devon County Council has spent the £1m allocation it had put aside and spent an additional £100,000 on snow clearance "because of the latest blizzards."

More than 720 highway workers were called out overnight to help keep roads open but Plymouth, Olkhampton, Tetbury and Tavistock were cut off at one stage.

Devon has more than 8,500 miles of highways to maintain, more than any authority in England, and had to concentrate on the 1,500 miles of main roads.

In Cornwall the county council has spent £240,000 of its winter allocation of £300,000 while in Somerset, the county council has spent almost all of its £500,000 allocation on keeping its roads open this winter.

Last night farmers reported that on Bodmin Moor, Exmoor and Dartmoor, where conditions were still bad in spite of the thaw, they were concerned that many sheep, which could not be brought in before the blizzard struck, might have been killed.

Manchester normally budgets to spend £1.5m on the salting and gritting of roads. The Greater Manchester Council spent £25m in the last severe winter of 1978-79 and officials estimated yesterday that that figure would be exceeded.

In Cheshire, 36,000 tons of salt, half of the county's stock, had been used up before Christmas. The county had spent £500,000 more than its normal budget for winter contingencies before Christmas. "We are stretched to the limit," a county council spokesman said.

Lancashire County Council allocates £1.8m for winter road maintenance and a spokesman said that "severe threats" had been made into the budget.

Science report

The beetle and an annoying teapot

By the Staff of "Nature"

Some teapots are bad potsters. As the tea leaves the spout it curls infuriatingly around the lip and drips. This is the "Conada effect," the tendency of a flowing liquid to stick to the surface it flows over. Usually it is a nuisance, but a certain beetle, *Goniopsis nigricornis*, it is a defence

Thomas Eisner, a behavioural scientist from the University of Cornell, New York, got together with a colleague from the electrical engineering Department, Daniel J. Aneeshansley, to study the beetle which was known for its ability to spray attacking ants with a hot solution of hydrocarbons, an extremely effective way of keeping ants at bay.

In this ability *G. nigricornis* is related to the bombardier beetle, which creates the hydrocarbons in an explosive reaction in a kind of rocket chamber in its abdomen, squirting the offensive stuff out of an aperture at its rear end. But *G. nigricornis* goes one better. It has two jets on the last segment on the right, and can steer the fluid from either jet forward or to the side, so aiming its emissions directly at the ant.

Does it do the steering? By using the Conada effect, Eisner and Aneeshansley have shown.

Just above each gland the beetle has a tiny, curved, and has two jets on the last segment on the right, and can steer the fluid from either jet forward or to the side, so aiming its emissions directly at the ant.

In fact this little protrusion serves to distinguish the beetle from others similar to it, and it occurred to Eisner and his colleagues to investigate what it was for.

Now in a series of high speed films and electron micrographs the two researchers have shown that the beetle ejects its stream of hydrocarbons in the form of a protrusion. The fluid curls around it (according to the Conada effect) and leaves at an angle determined by the precise position of the gland relative to the protrusion.

One can get a similar effect when a spoon under a running tap, where a small movement of the spoon will cause a large deviation in the issuing spray. (Wear a waterproof apron when demonstrating this!)

The beetle is thus another example of the amazing flexibility of the hard substance, chitin, during the evolution of arthropods, in which it is assumed the most fantastic shapes for all kinds of purposes, not only the body of the beetle but the body of birds have been similarly plastic; in contrast the bone of the vertebrates has proved relatively stable.

Source: Science vol 215 p83 (1982).

© Nature-Times; News Service (1982).

From yesterday's later editions

Ministers hold secret talks on the Budget

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has arranged a country house party this weekend for Treasury ministers and the Government's top economic advisers in preparation for a special Cabinet meeting where the main options for the Budget will be discussed.

Reports that the Prime Minister, who is the main proponent of the Government's tough economic strategy, would be attending were denied.

Sir Geoffrey believes it will be an advantage for the Treasury team and its advisers to get away from Whitehall to a secret venue in the Home Counties for two days to review the effects of the Government's policies and to consider a strategy for the next two years leading up to the general election.

Last year Sir Geoffrey and Mrs. Margaret Thatcher faced bitter criticism at Budget time for springing on ministers a series of decisions which the "wets" in the Cabinet considered ill-considered and likely to lead to a return to Britain's industrial troubles.

1,000 queue for jobs

More than 1,000 people queued for hours in the ice and snow in Glasgow hoping for one of 180 jobs at the city's Grosvenor Hotel, which is reopening after being devastated by fire.

CORRECTION

The photographic caption on page 3 on January 6 showed Mr. Leslie Grant, not Grant.

The photographs of a highly modified four mile and snow-fake on the back page of the Times yesterday were taken from The Inside World, by Alex Thomas, illustrated by Secker & Warburg at £12.50.

Overseas selling prices

Austria 50p, Canada 60p, France 60p, Germany 60p, Italy 60p, Japan 60p, Netherlands 60p, Norway 60p, Sweden 60p, Switzerland 60p, USA 60p, West Germany 60p.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Man cleared of Toxteth riot charges

A man who said he was bullied by the police into making a false confession was cleared yesterday of seven charges connected with the riots in Toxteth last July. He had been held in custody for six months.

Mr Christopher O'Donoghue, aged 23, unemployed, of Cookson Street, Liverpool, pleaded not guilty to the charges, although he had made a statement to police admitting he took part in street violence.

Mr Jack Price, QC, for the defence, said on the third day of the trial, which lasted a week: "Mr O'Donoghue had no injuries when he was arrested but the next day, when he appeared in court, he had a black eye, the left side of his face was swollen and he had bruises on his leg and thigh."

Mr O'Donoghue said after the hearing: "I have spent six months in custody for offences that I did not commit. I think something should be done about that. I will be talking to my solicitor to see what steps we can take."

The charges that Mr O'Donoghue was found innocent of included arson, possessing offensive weapons and making an affray.

More Rampton nurses accused

Three more nurses from Rampton Hospital, Nottinghamshire, have been charged with ill-treating patients after a police inquiry which began nearly three years ago. The nurses face 34 charges alleging ill-treatment of 11 patients, and are to appear in court at Mansfield on February 8.

A total of 14 Rampton nurses have now been charged against patients. One has been convicted, four have been cleared and the rest are awaiting trial.

Museum gains in tax deal

Three tombstones have been allocated to the British Museum and 22 Hebrew manuscripts to libraries after their acceptance in lieu of tax at a cost to the National Land Fund of £331,597.

The manuscripts, dating from the thirteenth century, go to the British Library, the Brotherton Library, Leeds, the John Rylands University Library, Manchester, the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and the Cambridge University Library.

Telex facility to continue

Arrangements are being made to enable foreign journalists to continue to use telex facilities from Britain after the closure in March of the London Telex Office, which is losing £150,000 a year.

That was stated yesterday after a meeting between officials of the British Telecom and representatives of the Foreign Press Association and the Commonwealth Press Union, which were concerned at the loss of the facility.

Radioactive load in lorry crash

A lorry carrying radioactive waste was involved in a collision yesterday outside the British Nuclear Fuels plant at Sellafield, Cumbria. But the company said there was no contamination or risk to the public.

The driver and his companion were unhurt and continued their journey to the disposal site at Drigg, four miles away, where the waste is buried.

City plans medical help for homeless

Manchester Area Health Authority has applied for a £150,000 Government grant to set up a medical team to work with 2,000 homeless people, including tramps and down-and-outs, in the city, it was announced yesterday.

Man dies in fire

Mr David Felgate, aged 47, a farmworker, died yesterday in a fire at his home in Great Bircham, Norfolk. His mother, Mrs Edith Felgate, aged 80, was rescued from her bedroom by a postman.

Youth committed

Colin Jones, aged 17, a painter and decorator of Millersdale Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, was committed yesterday by the city's magistrates to the Liverpool Crown Court for sentence after he pleaded guilty to assaulting Police Constable Craig Thompson during an anti-police march last August.

Girl for Anna Ford

Miss Anna Ford, the former ITN newsreader, gave birth to a daughter late on Thursday night. Miss Ford, aged 37, married Mr Mark Boxer, the cartoonist, last November. The baby weighed 7lb 14oz.

Service athletes banned from Russian games

By Ronald Faux

British Servicemen will not be allowed to take part in the world biathlon championships in Russia next month on the orders of the Government. The ban is a further reprisal against Russia for the invasion of Afghanistan and has been agreed after discussions between the Ministry of Defence and other Government departments.

The decision in effect cancels British participation in the premier event of this year's biathlon calendar, since all 10 members of the British senior and junior teams are soldiers or Marines.

The biathlon is one of the most demanding Olympic sports, combining cross-country skiing with marksmanship, and some of the best British hopes have been training for five years. The World Championships are due to take place in Minsk between February 9 and 14.

The British team would have gone to Russia not as Servicemen but as civilians, sponsored by the British Ski Federation (BSF). An official of the BSF said yesterday that the Government's decision was ill-considered.

The federation was still waiting to hear precisely why the Servicemen would not be allowed to go to Russia, but since other countries, including America and West Germany, would be sending a team, they saw no reason why Britain should be an exception.

Unlike the teams of other countries, the British biathlon team is made up entirely of Servicemen who have a talent for marksmanship and the time to devote eight months of the year to intensive training.

The BSF official pointed out that the federation was not being prevented from sending a team, but because of the ban it should not have a team to send.

"We are very sad that these individuals who have been training for a long

time, will not now be allowed to take part, especially as this year they have high hopes of doing well. These men were not going to Russia as servicemen but as sportsmen selected to represent Great Britain because they are the best at their particular sport."

The British team is training in Northern Italy. The news will be a blow to Sergeant James Wood, of the Army P1 Corps, who was in the British Olympic team and came top in the recent selection races, and for Marine Bernie Shrobbree, who came a close second. Both would have been representing Britain at the world championships.

The Ministry of Defence said last night that the decision was in line with government policy to restrict military contacts between the United Kingdom and Russia. If individuals insisted on ignoring government policy, permission to take annual leave or special unpaid leave would not be withheld unless there were overriding operational reasons that would justify refusal.

The suggestion that individual biathletes could compete in Russia in their own time angered Mr Ian Graeme, vice-president of the BSF. "There is no question of the government doing to us what it did to the Olympics team," he said. "That policy absolutely stinks."

The Government has given its reasons for withholding permission and that is fact enough, but it is the Government's responsibility.

"It is not going to palm that off on us or on our individual skiers. If that is the Government decision then the British biathlon team will not be going to Russia."

The British team will continue to compete in the world cup circuit. The money saved by not taking part in the world championships will be used to allow extra competitions in the world cup.

Families in talks on Penlee Fund

By Craig Seton

The trustees of the Penlee lifeboat disaster fund, which now stands at £2.2m, are to meet the families of the eight dead Mousehole lifeboatmen to decide how to share the money.

The trustees met in Penzance yesterday for the first time since the Charity Commission and the Attorney General agreed that the fund should be treated as a private trust to avoid any legal obstacles over its distribution. The Government has said there will be no tax liability on some of the larger donations.

Mr John Moore, chief executive of Penwith District Council, said yesterday that the trustees would discuss with the dependants the options for allocating the money. The council started the fund after the disaster on December 19, when the lifeboatmen were killed rescuing eight people on board the coaster Union Star off Land's End. The tragedy left five widows and 12 fatherless children in the Cornish fishing village of Mousehole.

Between £400,000 and £500,000 collected by local fishermen has already been divided equally between the eight families. The trustees of the other fund are understood to have ruled out sharing the money and will take account of the different circumstances of the families.

A fund for the dependants of the Union Star crew has also been launched and donations may be sent to MV Union Star crew dependants fund, c/o Barclay's Bank, 17 Deodar Road, London SE8 4PB.

Dentists deplore rises in treatment charges

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

The rise in dental charges will make dentistry prohibitively expensive for the old and those on low incomes, the British Dental Association said yesterday.

Its general dental services committee passed a resolution deploring the "punitive" increases in charges announced by the Chancellor on December 2.

It urged the Government to reconsider the revenue targets for dental charges for 1982-83 and restated "its profound opposition" to further financial barriers being placed in the way of patients needing care.

The present maximum charge for routine dental treatment is £9, with a maximum charge of £50 for more complex treatment. From April 1 the charges will rise to £13 and £50 respectively.

When the Government took office in May, 1979, the maximum charges for dental treatment were £5 and £30 respectively. The present

Police 'fear harassment' allegations

Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, said yesterday that some of his officers were not intervening in situations in which they would formerly have done so because they feared allegations of harassment.

He was replying to continued criticism of his force's handling of the Moss Side riots last July.

He told a meeting of Greater Manchester Police Committee: "I am rather tired of these endless attacks on my young officers who did their duty with great bravery." Mr Anderson had clashed with Mrs Gabrielle Cox, the deputy chairman, who has criticized police methods in the past.

During a discussion on the use of police vans to quell riots, Mrs Cox said: "As regards the tactics of driving vans at people, I would like to dissociate myself from that." She claimed vans could be regarded as police weapons which were part of a police armory.

Mr Anderson said: "These are emotive words. People were in danger from hoodlums and criminals using every type of weapon like petrol bombs upon the police."

Referring to allegations of police harassment, he said his officers were told to "bend over backwards" not to put themselves in a difficult situation. He added: "There are many officers who are patrolling the streets of Manchester who are failing to intervene in some situations."

This is because they feared allegations of harassment," he said. The police authority is unlikely to discuss further the Moss Side riots.



Living in the past: Mrs Alice Rawson, aged 98, welcoming her regular visitor, Mrs Valerie Gilley, a district nurse, to the comfort of her 300-year-old cottage. Mrs Rawson lives with her daughter at the cottage, in Sandhurst, Gloucestershire, with neither tap water nor electricity. The two women use a coal-fired range for cooking and heating and get their water from a well outside. They have rejected repeated offers of an electricity supply and their only modern appliances are a battery-operated television set and a transistor radio.

SDP man may face fight against agent

The only Social Democratic member to be elected to Islington council faces a challenge from his election agent.

Mr Kevin O'Keefe won a by-election in September, but Mr Morgan Lear, secretary of Islington's SDP branch, who acted as his agent, has announced that he plans to seek selection in his place as the party's candidate in May.

There are two seats in the Hillmorton ward, and under an agreement between the SDP and the Liberals each party will offer one candidate.

Mr O'Keefe said he was angry about Mr Lear's decision. "I very much regret that he has decided to challenge me. His action could provide the Labour Party with just the opportunity it is looking for locally to discredit the SDP. I hope that on reflection he will withdraw."

Mr Lear, who will have to resign from his job as council architect to stand for selection, said his decision should not be interpreted as a vote of no confidence in Mr O'Keefe.

He said: "I am merely stating a preference to stand as a candidate in Hillmorton ward. It is the ward in which I live, and where I have been active politically in both the SDP and the Labour Party."

The council is controlled by its 25 SDP members, but only Mr O'Keefe has been elected for the party. The other 24 defected from Labour.

The 26 councillors are commissioning a public opinion poll to find out ratepayer's attitudes to rate options. The poll will be conducted by a large opinion research company and will be financed by £9,000 from money set aside by the former Labour administration for a publicity campaign against government measures to restrict council spending.

Up to 1,000 people will be asked for their views on "specific and realistic choices between particular service levels and rent and rate implications." The poll will

be completed early next month and councillors will take the findings into account when they fix next year's rate.

A prominent Conservative backbencher last night blamed government policy for making the world recession much worse in Britain than elsewhere in Europe.

Mr Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow, East, speaking in Islington, said: "The danger is that the recession is becoming so entrenched and the rise in unemployment so irreversible that more than a mere £2,000m or £3,000m will be needed in the next Budget."

"Unfortunately the Government's own actions have made our recession much worse than elsewhere in Europe and we could now need £6,000m to £8,000m of tax cuts and new spending in real terms to revive the economy and get demand moving upwards."

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Guernsey to seek jobs safeguard

From Our Correspondent St Peter Port

Guernsey is seeking sweeping powers to safeguard local jobs through the introduction of a work permit scheme for immigrant labour coming into the island.

The Labour and Welfare Authority is to put to the island's Parliament on January 27 proposals for legislation that would be retrospective from yesterday and would apply to the self-employed as well as employees.

Nobody in work would need permits and those with residential qualifications would be exempt.

Guernsey, like Jersey, has enabling legislation for introducing work permits, which the more far-reaching proposals would replace.

Alderney is the only Channel Island where a work permit system is in operation. It has been used to exceed 50,000 in the next 30 years.

At the same time Guernsey's Parliament is to consider a report of a working party set up in 1980 to look into immigration control. The team wants the population not to exceed 60,000 in the next 30 years.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, is expected to reply soon to two letters from Mr Jack Ashley, the MP who has led the criticism of Judge Richards's £2,000 fine on the rapist and his comment that the girl was guilty of contributory negligence by hitch-hiking.

Mr Ashley has said that if he finds the Lord Chancellor's reply unsatisfactory he will consider introducing a Bill to allow the prosecution the right to appeal against lenient sentences. The Lord Chancellor has called for a transcript of the trial, as is normal practice with any

Mr Taylor is vice-president of the Yorkshire area and a Scargill admirer. His main opponent, who is making the complaints, is Mr John Walsh, the moderate area agent of the union for North Yorkshire.

Mr Walsh complains that Mr Taylor has featured prominently in the last three issues of the Yorkshire Miner. Electioneering for the Yorkshire presidency is forbidden and Mr Taylor's exposure has prompted Mr Walsh to observe: "This is unfair." He is in favour of what he terms an "open election" so that miners have the opportunity of looking at candidates and what they stand for.

Mr Walsh said: "I want the same opportunity for all candidates. If this is given I am convinced I shall be successful."

Mr Taylor said of Mr Walsh's complaints: "I was elected vice-president. The Yorkshire Miner has just reported my views and the things I have done which are part of my job."

Two more candidates have emerged, Mr John Stones, branch delegate at Frickley colliery, near Doncaster, and Mr Albert Barlow, president of the branch at Denby Grange colliery, near Wakefield.

Mr Michael McGahey, the Scottish miners' leader, yesterday rejected Sir Derek Ezra's plea to miners to accept the National Coal Board's 9.3 per cent offer.

Mr McGahey urged Sir Derek, the board's chairman, "not to be a lackey of the Tory Government" and pressed him to meet the miners' claim of 23 per cent.

Girl may get £2,000 rape compensation

By Marcel Berlins, Legal Correspondent

The rape victim whose attacker was not jailed this week because she had been hitch-hiking can expect to get at least £2,000 compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Anyone injured as a result of crime, except where the injuries are very trivial, is entitled to claim under the scheme, set up in 1964. In the year ended March 31, 1981, more than £21m was paid to more than 25,000 applicants.

Distress, shock and other psychological consequences directly attributable to violent crime or threat of violence can attract compensation, even if there was no physical injury.

The board's 1980 annual report outlined its guidelines for compensation awards. The figure of £2,000 refers to "rape leading to no serious physical or psychological damage". A rape victim claiming compensation would have to provide some evidence of any serious psychological effects. The worse or longer lasting the effects, the more compensation would be payable.

It is doubtful whether either the girl or her parents could successfully sue the rapist in the civil courts for damages.

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Poland: A month of martial law

Free Solidarity denies it is now cooperating

By David Cross

Leaders of Solidarity, the suspended independent trade union movement in Poland, have described as "fictional" claims by the martial law authorities that they are taking part in talks with the Government.

A statement received in the West from Solidarity leaders who are still at liberty in Poland said that the union authorities have not empowered, nor will they allow, any of their members remaining at liberty to conduct such talks. The statement added that the Government was trying to confuse society in order to find a way out of the deadlock it had created for itself.

The Solidarity bulletin came in response to a claim by the authorities that talks had begun with the union's leaders and official government-approved trade unions at the Ministry of Trade Union Affairs. The participants were not named and other details of the talks were sketchy.

According to the latest diplomatic reports reaching the West from Warsaw, the martial law authorities have failed to persuade any well known leaders of Solidarity to cooperate. The Roman Catholic Church is also resisting any close cooperation unless members of Solidarity are present, and Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of the suspended union, refuses to negotiate unless his colleagues are allowed to take part.

Diplomats concede that active resistance to martial law has virtually ceased nearly a month after it was imposed. The main concern of the authorities now must be to find a system to replace the way of political life which was crushed on December 13.

According to the official Polish news agency PAP, the country is strike-free for the first time in 18 months. The agency quoted Mr Boguslaw Stachura, the Deputy Interior Minister, as telling a parliamentary committee that military rule, the arrest of thousands of union activists and the smashing of strikes had put the country on the road to recovery.

Half of the estimated 40,000 troops around Warsaw are reported to have been withdrawn. Warsaw radio has reported that public telephone communications will be restored in provincial capitals from tomorrow.

In a broadcast monitored in London, the radio said the resumption was because of the "further improvement of social discipline and observance of martial law regulations". Use of the communications media for activities contrary to the martial law rules was subject to penal law.

"In cases when censorship establishes improper use of telephone communications, it may be necessary to cut off the line", the announcement said. It was not clear whether private telephones were included in the proposed resumption of service.

The partial restoration of the telephone service and other easing of the curfew and allowing more travel around the country do not amount to much, according to Western diplomats in Warsaw.

According to diplomatic sources in Warsaw, in spite of the authorities' claim that many internees have been released, those detained under the martial law regulations still number 5,000. Other reports from journalists in Warsaw suggest that internees at the Bialoleka jail in the capital are refusing food in a campaign to improve conditions.

Friends of the detainees have said that they are taking turns to go on three-day hunger strikes. They appear to be demanding improved sanitation and health care as well as the release of the old, the very young and the sick.

□ **Britons unharmed:** British officials have been allowed to travel from Warsaw to Gdansk to check on the wellbeing of British subjects (the Press Association reports). They apparently found the Britons unharmed, despite the riots in Gdansk in which two people died after martial law was imposed. The officials found the city quiet but reported that only part of the shipyard was back to normal.

□ **Vienna:** Five members of Solidarity were sentenced yesterday to prison terms ranging from three and a half to five and a half years for combining the work of the trade union under martial law, according to Warsaw radio (AP reports). The sentences were handed down during a summary trial in Bielsko-Biala.

□ **Melbourne:** Australian dock workers will impose a week-long ban on handling ships from Poland from Monday to protest against the imposition of martial law (Reuters reports).

□ **EEC attacked:** The Polish news agency PAP yesterday dismissed as interference in Polish affairs a statement by EEC foreign ministers in Brussels on Monday which condemned totalitarian systems (AFP reports). In a statement carried by Warsaw radio, PAP said trade relations between sovereign states should be based on the Helsinki agreements. Any attempt to influence the internal affairs of any country went against those principles, it said.

Bonn argues for firm, united stand by Nato

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Jan 8

West Germany will press for a united and strongly stated stand on the Polish situation when Nato foreign ministers meet in Brussels on Monday, sources said on Tuesday.

The West German aim will be to underline the political effect of United States sanctions against Poland and the Soviet Union and to see that they are not undercut by other countries, the sources said. They emphasized the political effect because West Germany maintains and believes that the sanctions have no practical effect.

Count Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the West German Economics Minister, last night said there was "really little point" in them and repeated the argument of Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, in Washington this week, that the only sanction that would directly and rapidly hurt the Soviet Union would be a United States grain embargo, which West Germany was not prepared to impose.

West Germany, the sources said, would not lay before Nato any proposal of its own for tangible measures over Poland, but was prepared to discuss any suggestions by other countries.

It was also prepared to join in discussions later this month on the possibility of further limiting the exports of potentially strategic goods to the Soviet bloc.

It is clear that the West Germans regard the Western reaction as being largely verbal. After differences with Washington about the approach to the crisis and the bitter press attacks in the United States and France on their "softer" line, they are anxious that reaction should be unanimous and as sharp as possible.

Marchais not falling out with Jospin on Poland

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Jan 8

The Communist and Socialist parties have agreed to disagree on the Polish crisis; but Poland will not be allowed to undermine the union of the left, or the cooperation of the two parties in government. This is the final outcome of the three-and-a-half-hour talks between delegations of the two parties, led by Mr Georges Marchais and Mr Lionel Jospin, their respective leaders, at the Communist Party headquarters in Paris this morning.

In the words of the final communiqué, they confronted their standpoints on the situation in Poland, and noted in this respect differences and divergences.

The meeting was the first since June 23, when the two parties concluded an agreement which paved the way for Communist participation in the Government. It was originally to have taken place before the Polish crisis, at the request of the Communists, to discuss problems of the media. But its date was repeatedly postponed.

Although other subjects, too, were taken up this morning, Poland—which has been the most severe test for the coalition between Socialists and Communists—inevitably dominated the discussions.

But it was clear that neither was prepared to contemplate the possibility of a breach over it, despite their sharply divergent reactions to the military takeover in Warsaw, and repeated calls by the Opposition

that the Communist ministers must go.

The Communists, who lost a quarter of their voters in the presidential elections, could not afford a breach on an issue over which the mainstream of French opinion is so hostile to the Moscow line. The Socialists need the Communists to consolidate their left-wing image.

So Poland was not allowed to interfere with their alliance. As Mr Paul Laurent, the secretary of the Communist Party's Central Committee, put it after the meeting, "each party sticks to its position. Each considers that its attitude is in accord with the agreement of June 23". The accord stated that both parties hoped "the Polish people will pursue the process of economic, social, and democratic renewal on which it has embarked."

Mr Laurent added: "We do not cultivate divergences on principle. We merely take note of them." And he emphasized that the main lesson of the meeting was the approval given by both parties to the action of the Government since it took office.

Thus the Communist ministers will have to continue to endorse the sharp condemnation of the Polish military coup, while the Socialist Party will continue to urge in line with Moscow, that General Jaruzelski had no option but to take firm action.

Warsaw dissects a corrupt past

From Roger Boyes

Warsaw, Jan 8 (censored)

It has been a curious week in official Poland: a week of mime and circumstance, choreographed events, snapshots of the past. Most of it seems to have taken place in court: Mr Mateusz Szpakowski, the former chairman of the Telewizja Komisja, was on trial in one court for taking bribes, while in a neighbouring room, alleged strike organizers were facing summary justice.

Meanwhile, in the Shakespeare, Mr Marek Brunne, a former Solidarity leader, entered stage left, hotfoot from Canada.

The Szczepanski trial is being accorded most publicity, though officials insist that it is not a show trial. It is, however, a symbolic case, a way of putting the unacceptable facets of the Gierka era—the featherbedding of party bureaucrats, the backhanders from foreign companies who wanted to capitalize on the import boom—in the dock.

The judges are still reading the charges: several million zlotys are involved in the appropriation of state funds; foreign bribes; using state employees to build private villas and swimming pools; using public money to finance video shows and pay for mistresses. The trial promises to be both soap opera and a stern reminder to Poles that they are living in a new, austere—Cromwellian—reality, as one Polish official recently put it.

While in one courtroom the past was being dissected in salacious detail, a near by chamber in the Warsaw courthouse was investigating the present. Three members of the Huta Warszawa steel mill stand accused of organizing a strike at the plant in the first days after the introduction of martial law. They have pleaded not guilty and their defence lawyers have been arguing that the protest was a spontaneous action born out of the confusion in the first hours after December 13.

Thirty witnesses are being heard and at the time of writing the verdict is still open. Many of the prosecution witnesses have spoken out for the defence and there is, in the courtroom, strong public support for the men, including from Mr Andrzej Wajda the film director, who directed *Man of Iron*, and several prominent actors.

Elsewhere in the courthouse, which just over a year ago, saw the registration of Solidarity as an independent union, some men have been sentenced to two years for organizing a strike at the FSO-Fiat car factory, while others have been cleared of the charges.

Small dramas then are being played out in this courthouse, both reassuring and warning the people. The uniform message is that the Government is against corruption and abuse of power but at the same time it is against labour unrest and anti-socialist activity.

Mr Brunne having returned from a scientific conference in Canada was met by Polish television at the airport. He condemned extremism, condemned the United States sanctions imposed after the introduction of martial law, condemned statements made by defecting Polish ambassadors and expressed the wish that he would be able to return to scientific research now that Solidarity was suspended.

French defend arms sale to Nicaragua

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, yesterday registered his strong disapproval of the French decision to sell arms to Nicaragua. Mr Haig conveyed his views on the arms sale during a meeting in Washington with Mr Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister.

The Secretary of State will have further discussions on the sale with Mr Claude Cheysson, the French External Affairs Minister, in Brussels on Monday where they will be attending a special session of Nato foreign ministers on Poland.

Mr Hernu, who arrived yesterday on an official visit to the United States, explained to Mr Caspar Weinberger, the American Defence Secretary, why France had agreed to sell arms to Nicaragua.

The French minister said that the United States Government did not wish to become dependent on the Soviet Union and Cuba for arms. France would give equipment and training. "I think our American friends should not be alarmed more than necessary," he said.

In a television interview yesterday, Mr Weinberger said about the sale of two missiles, launching patrol boats, lorries and two Alouette helicopters for \$17m (£8.7m) to Nicaragua: "All of us are extremely disappointed about this decision by the French which has been heavily supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union and has taken positions in the area that we find very adverse to our interests."

The United States has cut off aid to Nicaragua saying that the country is helping to arm leftist rebels in El Salvador.

Pentagon officials said the French move was "a slap in the face" for the United States. But President Mitterrand of France, a close ally of Washington in his attitude to the Soviet Union and European security, has repeatedly criticized United States policy in Central America.

Mr Mitterrand argues that American support for right-wing military regimes is likely to drive countries such as Nicaragua and El Salvador into the Soviet camp.

By selling military equipment to Nicaragua, official circles in Paris maintain, the Socialist Government has demonstrated that its support for revolutionary movements in Latin America is more than a matter of words and gestures.

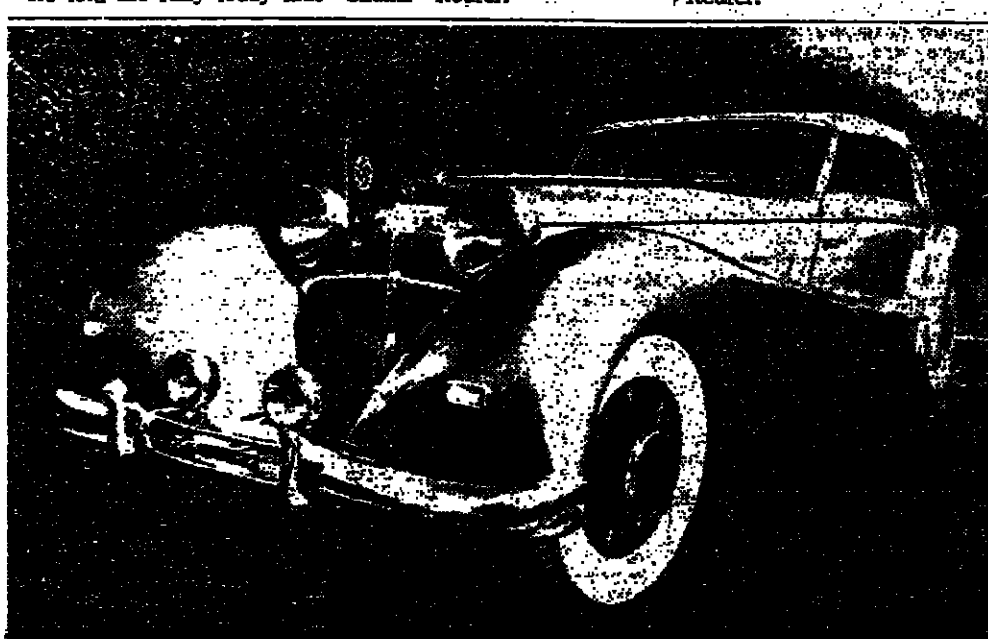
Before leaving Paris, Mr Hernu said that the United States had never asked France not to sell military equipment to Nicaragua. France, he said, was opposed to the division of the world into blocs and when a country turned to France for a contract of this kind, it generally meant that it wished to escape from dependence on one or other of the superpowers.

Mr Hernu said that about 10 Nicaraguan sailors and aviators would come to France for training. The pilots would be trained on Mirage fighters, and not on MiGs, a hint that the Sandinistas might one day buy aircraft from France.

Rawlings urges revolt

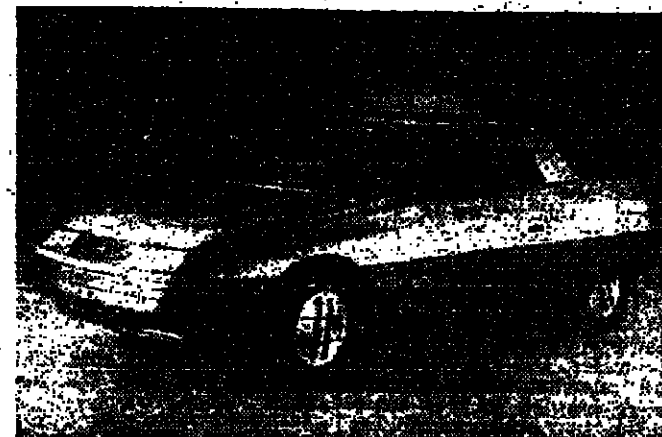
Accra, Jan 8—Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, Ghana's new military ruler, urged his countrymen today to carry out a revolution. From an armoured car, he told thousands of cheering workers at a rally in central Accra: "take the initiative of revolution into your own hands."

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, wearing Air Force overalls, was surrounded by heavily armed soldiers. Jet fighters soared above the crowd which arrived in hundreds of buses and lorries. The new leader, who has promised to wage a holy war against corruption, inefficiency and mismanagement, said all of Africa was watching the revolution in Ghana.—Reuter.



Gas guzzlers

Eva Braun's Mercedes Roadster (above) and Hitler's bullet-proof parade car are expected to fetch \$1.2m (about £620,000) at the Classic Car Auction in Phoenix, Arizona this weekend. A Jewish charity is to receive \$20,000. On the right is a Ford prototype which runs on natural gas. It was unveiled in Detroit this week with the label Alternative Fuel Vehicle, and can be filled up at home.



Karate gets the Kremlin chop

From Michael Rinyon
Moscow, January 8

One of the fastest growing sports in the Soviet Union is about to get the chop. Karate, officially recognized only four years ago but already a cult among Soviet youth, is now being cut by the authorities as a dangerous and ideologically subversive phenomenon, and rough measures are being taken to curb its growth.

So great is the popularity of the Japanese martial art that unofficial and unqualified "masters" all over the country are offering private lessons for up to 30 roubles (£7) a month.

With only a superficial knowledge of the sport, gleaned mainly from privately circulated and often inaccurate translations of Western karate manuals, these teachers accept any student, regardless of age and physical ability and without any preliminary medical checks.

The result has been an alarming increase in injuries and even fatalities, and the abuse of karate for criminal ends. There are so many accidents—even in officially organized groups for school pupils and students—that the authorities have decided to suppress the sport's development.

Two months ago *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the youth newspaper, reported that karate had been used by two youngsters to beat a man to death in a town in eastern Siberia after he tried to stop them tormenting a 12-year-old child. The paper said karate should be regarded as a weapon, and called for stricter controls on its teaching and practice.

More recently, the head of the powerful Soviet Sports Committee said the private teaching of karate was alien to Soviet society and way of life because it encouraged individualism and cruelty. He accused charlatans of instructing people in blows and moves that were forbidden because they could cause death.

In future any unlicensed training should attract a fine of 500 roubles or sent to prison for up to five years. All unofficial karate clubs are being closed, and police raids around the country are being carried out to enforce the new regulations.

The sport is now to be banned altogether. A distinction has been drawn between the legal, controlled martial art where blows are not actually delivered and the aggressive use of karate to inflict injury.

Demonstration karate, recognized as the fifth-second official sport in 1978, will continue. The first championship was held in Tallinn, Estonia, in 1979, and there are now more than 220 recognized clubs, including Mr Alexei Shurmin, director of the Central School of Karate in Moscow, who served as Ireland's Olympic attaché in 1980.

These trainers will have to renew their licences every two years, and will not be allowed to accept any student considered irresponsible or morally unreliable. The choice of who may be initiated into the secrets of the martial arts will be left to a committee of the Communist Youth League and must be made with the approval of the police. All private training is forbidden.

In this way the Russians hope the craze for karate, which like so much else coming from the East and West is seen as a threat to the Soviet way of life and an instrument of capitalist rebellion, will be controlled if not suppressed altogether.

Pravda also cited the case of Vladimir Kalinin, a Soviet citizen who was executed in 1975 after being convicted of passing information on munitions factories to United States embassy personnel.

It gave no information about a Soviet citizen who, according to the Government newspaper, *Izvestia*, was arrested last September on charges of spying for the CIA. He was indicted at the time simply as E. A. Krasovskiy.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Norway lifts ban on EEC fishing

Oslo.—Norway has lifted a ban on fishing in the Norwegian economic zone by vessels from EEC countries. The ministry of fisheries official said that the decision to lift the ban was made after France earlier told the EEC commission in Brussels that it had withdrawn its reservation to an agreement with Norway providing for reciprocal fishing on the basis of agreed quotas.

Norway banned EEC fishing in the Norwegian zone from January 1 and protested to the Commission at what it said was a failure to implement the agreement negotiated in Brussels last month, and complained to the French Government emphasizing that the French veto on the agreement could injure relations between Norway and the EEC.

Aid plan for Third World

Kuwait.—The Brandt Commission on World Development has decided to draw up an emergency programme to help poor Third World countries. It will try to issue it this year. Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, said.

The plight of developing countries has worsened in two years since the independent group published its report on narrowing the economic gap between rich and poor countries. Herr Brandt said in an interview.

A two-day meeting of the commission agreed on the need to recommend specific action and on which countries or organisations should carry it out.

Andre Previn remarries

Mr André Previn, the conductor, has been married secretly, in Philadelphia, to Heather, the daughter of Mr Robert Speedon, a retired Foreign Office official, from Surrey.

Both have been married before. Mr Previn to Mia Farrow, the actress, and his bride to Michael Jayston, the actor.

Bermudian premier quits

Hamilton.—Mr David Gibbons, the Prime Minister of Bermuda, has announced his resignation to take effect on January 15. He is expected to be succeeded by a black premier.

Mr Gibbons, aged 54, has often said he did not enjoy the Prime Minister's job. The mainly white United Bermuda Party, which has been in power since 1974, is expected to choose a black man to replace the white, Harvard-educated Mr Gibbons. Sixty per cent of the 55,000 residents are black.

Polar ice caps are melting

New York.—Scientists in America believe there is evidence that increasing carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere has begun to melt the west Antarctic ice sheet.

Mr Robert Etkins and Mr Edward Epstein, both National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists, said the melting of more than 40,000 cubic miles of Polar ice were responsible for a more than four-inch rise in global sea levels since 1940. They said it may be several centuries before the ice caps disintegrate.

Stoessel gets Clark's job

Washington.—President Reagan is nominating Mr Walter Stoessel, as Deputy Secretary of State to succeed Mr William Clark, named this week as White House national security adviser. He also named Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, the State Department number three post currently held by Mr Stoessel.

Universities in Sudan close

Khartoum.—Sudan's four universities have been closed indefinitely after a week of student demonstrations against sugar price increases.

The riots, which broke out on Sunday, left one dead, and two seriously injured, all of them apparently hit by police warning shots.

Public beheading in Saudi Arabia

Jeddah.—An Indian servant has been publicly beheaded in Saudi Arabia for killing his Saudi employer.

The Interior ministry said the man killed his employer with a kitchen knife after she slapped him on the face and then strangled the daughter when she cried for help.

Mobster shot dead

Philadelphia.—Mr Frank "Chickie" Narducci, a gang leader, has been shot dead on a Philadelphia street. He is the eleventh victim of a two-year gang war in the city.

Warm protest

Buenos Aires.—Angry commuters set fire to and almost destroyed a suburban passenger train after they had to wait 90 minutes because of a signal failure.



Israeli annexes Antarctica

Mr Didi Menuzy, an Israeli satirical columnist and world traveller, watched by a local resident, plants an Israeli flag in Antarctica at the start of its brief unthawing summer last month and left the blue and white flag with the Shield of David about 500 miles from the South Pole. He had sailed from the Falkland Islands with bird watchers going to see the nesting of penguins and scientists

visiting American, Argentine, Chilean, Polish and Russian research stations. He left the flag on the mainland about 300 yards from a Russian meteorological and mineral research station on the coast near Graham Land. Mr Menuzy said a Soviet scientist told him the area was no-man's land and there was no authority to prevent him from planting his flag and staking a claim.

General Eitan finds Gulf war killings 'pleasure to watch'

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Jan 8

Lieutenant-General Rafael Eitan, Israel's longest serving chief of staff, warned today of the danger of a new war with Syria and expressed delight at the reduced dangers on Israel's eastern front because of the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war.

Asked by the Hebrew newspaper *Yediot Aharonot* whether Israeli policy could promote a reconciliation between Iran and Iraq, the general replied: "Theoretically it can happen. In my opinion there is no sign to indicate that. There have indeed been several mediating attempts. But both sides are so obstinate that it is a sheer pleasure to watch them killing each other — let them go on."

Speaking shortly after the Cabinet had extended his term of office for a fifth year, General Eitan claimed that Syria was pushing itself towards a new war, although he was not convinced that it wanted one: "It pushes itself by not holding peace talks with us. And therefore they have no alternative," he said.

The General reacted angrily to a suggestion that Israel could be provoking a new war by its recent moves on the Golan Heights: "No. The Golan law is a law," he said. "It is not an annexation. People in the Golan have to live in the framework of law, and you, the media people, keep saying annexation, annexation, annexation — and it is not annexation."

Asked whether there was likely to be a new war with

Syria, he said: "According to indications there could be a war. And there might not be a war. He said that if there was such a conflict Israel must take steps to ensure that it was the last. He denied that he had any personal feelings towards the Syrians as a result of two previous wars against them: 'My attitude towards them is the same as towards the other Arabs', he said. 'They are just a more bitter, extreme, cruel and an emotional enemy'."

Meanwhile, a group of 18 members of the British Conservative Friends of Israel became the first political delegation to tour the Golan Heights since the annexation last month. The party included five Westminster MPs, one Conservative member from the European Parliament and a number of senior Tory party officials. Israel Radio reported some members of the delegation had spoken in favour of the Golan law. Later, a British Embassy spokesman reiterated the official Conservative Government position that the annexation was "illegal, invalid and contrary to international law".

A vital pipeline carrying Iraqi oil to the Lebanese port of Tripoli reopened today, five days after being blown up by unidentified saboteurs, a Lebanese oil official said. (Reuters reports from Beirut.)

A separate explosion yesterday in Turkey closed a pipeline carrying Iraqi oil to the Turkish coast.

Holy image of incense goes to pot

Zurich, Jan 8. — Two East German scientists claim that the burning of incense may produce compounds found in hashish. They say their findings put the use of incense in a new light.

Herr Dieter Martinetz and Herr Karl-Heinz Lohs of the East German Academy of Science's toxicological research centre said their research was prompted by observations that altar boys could become addicted.

In a paper reprinted in the science supplement of the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* of Zurich, they said they established that tetrahydrocannabinols, contained in hashish, can be formed in the process of burning incense. The material was formed in a chemical reaction involving phenols and other agents contained in incense.

Genuine incense — which has the scientific name *olibanum* — is made of grains of resins from the incense tree, which grows in eastern India, South Arabia and Somalia. Hashish is a resinous substance obtained from the flowers and fruits of the widely grown hemp plant *cannabis sativa*. The East Germans noted that miraculous powers had been assigned to incense long before Christian times, from driving away demons to reviving the dead.

Old books on magic art described incense as a drug inducing the mind. By establishing that psychoactive hashish-type components can form during the burning process, "the use of incense for cultic purposes appears in a new light", the paper says. — AP.

S Africans let consul see Kitson

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Jan 8

Mr Robert Miller, the British Consul in Johannesburg, will be allowed consular access tomorrow to Mr Steven Kitson, the 25-year-old British citizen detained yesterday by security police.

According to a British Embassy spokesman in Cape Town, Mr Kitson was picked up while making a sketch of the Pretoria central prison in which his father, Mr David Kitson, is serving a 20-year jail sentence imposed in 1964 on charges of sabotage. He was apparently doodling while waiting to see his father.

Mr Kitson had come to South Africa to visit his father, and had seen him 11 times without incident before his arrest.

Security officials informed the British Consul yesterday that Mr Kitson was being held under section 22 of the General Laws Amendment Act, which permits the authorities to hold a detainee for up to 14 days without having to bring him or her before a court.

Under section 22, a police officer of the rank of lieutenant colonel or above can arrest anyone without warrant on suspicion of an offence.

Mr Kitson senior, who was a leading trade union activist, has dual British and South African nationality. His son holds only a British passport, which should put him in a different category from South African political detainees, who are frequently held incommunicado.

□ Torture claim: Mrs Norma Kitson, who lives in Bristol, said today she feared her son would be tortured (the Press Association reports). "That is what happens to people who are detained in South Africa", she said.



Steven Kitson: Detained under security laws

PRIESTS ARE FOUND SAFE

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 8

Two priests who were kidnapped from their monastery in Guatemala's Chiquimula province on Wednesday, have been found safe, according to the Belgian Embassy in the country.

One is a Belgian, who the Guatemalan authorities say will be repatriated soon. The other priest is a Guatemalan.

□ In Rome, heads of Roman Catholic orders reported today that 12 priests and about 100 catechists had been killed or kidnapped during the past 18 months in Guatemala (AP reports).

Limited autonomy for Corsica approved by French Cabinet

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Jan 8

Barring any opposition by the Constitutional Council, Corsica will be the first French region to elect its own assembly early next summer by proportional representation.

The Cabinet has finally approved a Bill which will be submitted to Parliament next week, giving Corsica a special statute and a measure of autonomy within the framework of the far-reaching decentralization law voted last autumn. The Bill constitutes an important turning point in a troubled relationship of more than two centuries between the mainland and the island since it became part of France one year before the birth of Napoleon, in 1768.

The Government will keep its word", M Gaston Defferre, Minister for the Interior and architect of this new statute which its opponents regard as the first breach in the unity of the French Republic, declared in an interview with the Corsican magazine *Kyrin*. "Corsicans aspire first of all to dignity. They do not accept to be treated less well, to enjoy less consideration than other Frenchmen. Their insular situation, their past, gives them the right to greater responsibility than the people of metropolitan France."

Paradoxically, the Socialists have always identified with Jacobinical centralization and with the defence of the Republic, one and indivisible. Yet they, not

their liberal or conservative predecessors, have taken the risk of solving the long-standing political, psychological and economic problems of the island with a bold institutional change.

Over the past decade the grievances of the islanders have fanned the flames of autonomist sentiment, and taken the violent form of bomb attacks against public buildings, institutions, or the property of mainlanders. These ceased after May 10 in the expectation of the Socialist Government's electoral promises. The amnesty of last August for all Corsicans guilty of such offences helped to prepare a favourable atmosphere for the Bill approved today.

The special statute for Corsica differs from that of other French regions essentially with respect to the right of the 61-member regional assembly to be consulted by the Government in Paris on questions specifically concerning the island. The assembly will also have the right to propose to the Government and to Parliament special amendments for Corsica to laws concerning the rest of the country.

The president of the regional assembly will become the head of the executive government of the island within the framework of its autonomous powers. The regional prefect will become a "regional commissioner of the Government", and not, as in other French regions, a

"commissioner of the republic", entrusted with responsibility for those state functions, like public order, devolved to the regional government.

On the whole, the special statute for Corsica has been welcomed by most political parties, labour unions, and autonomist movements of the island, with the exception of the Corsican Liberation Front, a clandestine organization with a very small following of extremists who demand outright independence. They claim the statute is a trick which would merely reinforce the existing clan system which dominates island politics.

The local Gaullists and, more surprisingly, the left-wing radicals also have misgivings on the ground of the threat to national unity.

All Corsican politicians harbour secret apprehensions that the new Statute will compel them to act up to their responsibilities without being able, as so often in the past, to use the dead hand of Paris as an excuse or an alibi for their own shortcomings. They also fear that thorough revision of electoral registers, which is now in progress on the orders of the government, will put an end to all the irregularities of the past and upset their local power base.

But the important thing for the Government is that bomb attacks have ceased and order reigns on the island.

Was joining the terrorists her only way out?

The violent abduction of the daughter of one of America's most powerful newspaper magnates in February 1974 shocked the world.

But it was only the first in a 5-year sequence of bizarre events.

In April, S.L.A. terrorists conducted an armed bank robbery. There, in the photographs, was Patty Hearst — an apparent convert to the cause.

How could such things happen? Why did she seemingly turn on her parents with such vehemence?

She spent three years with the S.L.A.

Why didn't she escape?

There are two sides to every story.

In "Every Secret Thing" a new book

serialised exclusively in the Sunday Times,

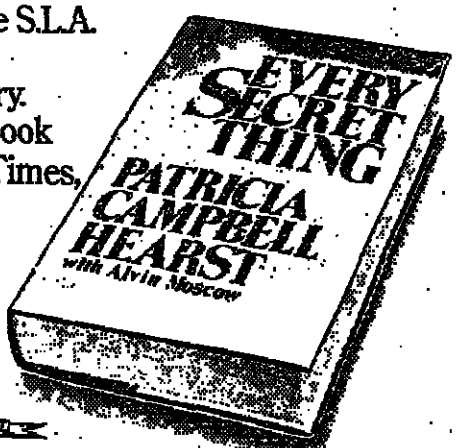
Patty Hearst tells hers.

Reluctant rebel, dedicated

revolutionary or common criminal?

Whatever you think, it'll make

you think again.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

Patty Hearst's own story starts this Sunday in the Sunday Times.

Gripped again by the icy eighties

Those of us who are resisting the temptation to go out and buy snow boots and parkas on the grounds that we are not likely to experience a repetition of the present arctic conditions for many winters to come could be in for a nasty shock.

According to experts who have studied the behaviour of the British climate over the last few centuries, the eighties have always been the coldest decade and we would do well to prepare ourselves for another 10 years of freezing winters.

Although Meteorological Office records go back only to Victorian times, thermometer readings have been taken by interested amateurs since the middle of the seventeenth century when the fellows of the newly established Royal Society recognized the importance of keeping a register of the British weather. Clergymen and country doctors seem to have been particularly assiduous in recording details of the changing seasons. Their findings, collated by the late Professor Gordon Manley, provide evidence of a remarkable cyclical pattern.

The coldest winter that Manley found evidence of was that of 1683-84. It was the occasion for one of the biggest and longest of the famous frost fairs which periodically took place on the frozen Thames in London. The fair, which lasted for nearly a month, was visited by Charles II, Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn, who reported that coaches were plying from Westminster to the Temple across the frozen river which was covered by booths and sideshows.

Among the attractions Evelyn reported were "bull



Skating on the Serpentine by torchlight a century ago—from The Illustrated London News of January 29, 1881

baiting, horse and coach races, puppet plays and interludes, cooks and tipping, and lewd places, so as it seemed to be a bacchanalia on the water, while it was a severe judgment upon the land." There were to be further frost fairs in the eighteenth century but the increasing pollution of the Thames by chemicals and the diversion into underground pipes of feeder streams which had previously brought ice into the main river raised the temperature and the last total freeze in London was in 1813-14.

The first four winters of the 1780s were also abnormally cold. In December 1784 the clergyman-naturalist Gilbert White recorded a temperature of -1° Fahrenheit in his garden at Selborne and noted that the severe frost had killed his laurels, furze, holly and ivy and gravely injured his walnut tree.

The early years of the 1880s provided the next period of arctic weather with temperatures of -11°F being recorded in Scotland during December 1879. It was not until last month that such

low December temperatures were again recorded.

Professor Hubert Lamb, founder of the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia, who has made a special study of the British climate, can offer no explanation for this centennial cycle of cold winters. His own research has established a pattern of storms at sea and severe flooding accompanying the cold winters of the '80s of recent centuries. In that respect the conditions which we are at present experiencing strongly sug-

gest that the 1980s are not going to escape the trend.

The cause of our present severe weather, according to Professor Lamb, is a change in the behaviour of the wind. Normally the prevailing winds in Britain are westerlies which bring mild damp weather from the Atlantic. However, these are now being pushed southwards, or "blocked" in meteorological parlance, by anti-cyclones coming from the Arctic.

As a result, the prevailing winds are northerly and

Britain, in company with much of western Europe, is experiencing weather which would normally be found at a much more northerly latitude. The storms usually found off Iceland have come south to the Bay of Biscay and the Channel, and Europe is in the grip of Arctic air streams.

Professor Lamb has just computed the incidence of westerly winds in Britain in 1981 and found that they were blowing for only 59 days. That compares with an annual average of 90 to 100 days during the first half of this century. Since the middle 1960s, he says, the annual incidence of westerlies has been dropping. That would suggest that the weather is becoming gradually worse.

Are we, then, entering the new ice age so beloved of science fiction writers and prophets of the imminent end of the world? Professor Lamb reckons that its first peak is still 5,000 years off, although he thinks that we might just possibly be embarking on the first step.

"The intervals between ice ages are much shorter than the ages themselves," he says. "There is roughly a 100,000-year cycle with about 70,000 years of ice age, and another 15,000 to 20,000 years or so in a semi-glacial state. The last ice age finished about 10,000 years ago."

According to Professor Lamb, the build-up to an ice age is signalled by a series of dramatic climatic changes. "You move from an oak forest climate to a pine forest climate to a tundra climate." So if, like Gilbert White, you find the trees in the garden dying, it might be prudent to replace them with conifers just in case.

Ian Bradley

The Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall discusses the issues that led him this week to announce his resignation



John Alderson: questions the police must ask themselves

Why I fell out with the police establishment

by John Alderson

The policing of our country has seldom received the adequate coherent treatment demanded by its sophistication and complexity. Acting out of crises from time to time we have had Royal Commissions and inquiries, the latest in a long line being Lord Scarman's report, whose criticisms and recommendations are already being diluted.

We are not alone in our crises. Most western nations have similar problems. The President's Commissions in the United States and the German, French, Italian and Dutch counterparts each indicate problems of policing in western democracies. Tensions arising out of social and political aspirations and social inequalities indicate that it is not always the traditional policing which is wrong but the very concept of law and order itself.

Where social inequalities lack a true and moral basis, or where people do not respect for their rulers, battalions of police will hardly put such matters right. There is abundant evidence to support that contention. Police of course can buy some time by containing the worst excesses until those who aspire to govern can carry out reforms; but they never provide the final solution, although that was tried in Europe some four decades ago.

The police have their duty to the law but they have internal duties also. These include the self-questioning of their role, ethics, and morals basis, and the proper articulation of their misgivings and doubts so that the body politic, the debate, and political processes can be enabled more quickly and effectively to bring about evolution and change. To have a policing system which stands still while all around it changes is like a steamship to produce a succession of crises.

Knowledge is power, and because of neglect of the study of policing most knowledge is confined to the police themselves. This means that civil servants, ministers and local police authorities are heavily reliant on police leaders who in modern times have been seen to be more and more independent of their own police process in the application of police resources. The decisions of chief constables to mount prosecution drives against offences for which they might have a personal aversion can be a manifestation of this independent use of power.

That is not to say this is legally or constitutionally wrong but that it is offensive to the democratic ideal. In extreme forms it could lead to the abuse of power against minorities of many kinds. The idea that the Anglo-Saxon system of policing is local, by consent, and is designed to "keep the peace" can be seen to be under severe strain. The creation of larger local government units has not only removed the seat of many of its aspects further away from the people but has weakened local police loyalties.

Police forces are now better described as regional rather than local units. This may have enhanced critical aspects of technological and operational efficiency but at the heavy price of severance of local accountability and consultation. London, of course, save in the City, has never enjoyed local policing in the strict sense of the term. When it is said that we are policed by consent, what does that mean? It cannot mean that everybody, even the law-abiding, agrees to the policing policies for their neighbourhood dictated by the head of a remote bureaucracy. Is it just hypocrisy or does it mean that the elected representatives consent to the chief constable's policies on their behalf? It

cannot mean that either since some police authorities already disagree with the policing policies in their area. It cannot mean those who feel that police activity is disproportionately heavy upon their own group, region or class. At best it probably means that most people most of the time have no contact with the police, or they agree that if the police behave reasonably and fairly their actions are acceptable. They certainly do not agree that serious crime and public disorder to be controlled, and rightly so, but undue concentration of the repressive powers of the police in enforcing regular offences offend against the public being policed by consent.

They will not consent to random breath tests for drunken drivers any more than young people nowadays will agree to random searches for cannabis. It is not surprising that conflict will ensue from these and other vague areas of police activity.

Most of the older professions such as the law, education and medicine have been able to find a substantial body of literature together with the confidence to debate their professional issues in public and with the public. In the police we have not yet reached that kind of professional maturity. It is still regarded as something akin to disloyalty to be seen to disagree in public on policy and philosophical matters.

During the recent debates on modes of policing, some chief constables showed considerable offence over my efforts to help the debate by speaking and writing openly on critical issues. This is sadly regretted though it is not a good enough reason for silence. If the debate is stifled by internal pressures, the police in this country and policing itself will be diminished.

That admirable institution, the Police Staff College, has done much to help progress of this kind. It is still confined to police officers, however, and lacks the stimulus that institutions of a wider and more open character could provide. The police service can still suffer from undue professional rigidity unless imagination, openness and intuition are given fuller rein.

My own efforts to assist with these trends have often fallen foul of the police establishment, although many encouraging signs have also been seen. The younger generation of senior police officers, for example, may force the pace. Of primary importance as a matter of urgency is the setting-up of a police studies department at one of our leading universities. It is encouraging to note that there is one such place (which presently has to remain unnamed) where serious negotiations are taking place and some, including myself, hope to be invited to assist with its setting-up and direction.

The second urgent need is for improved understanding by the general public about crime, its causes, circumstances, the principles of policing and the whole business of reconciling freedom of the individual with the activity of the state. This will require a constant flow of information and ideas through the media for public debate. My experience has fully convinced me that most people are quite ready to reach an understanding of the difficult aspect of government if given the facts, and all the facts. Whatever difficulties the future may hold in maintaining the balance and the traditional tolerance which we have developed as a nation, I still cherish the hope to make a further contribution to its achievement.

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The Astors lower the drawbridge at Haver

The news that Lord Astor of Haver and his family will leave Haver Castle this summer and allow it to be let to holidaymakers is a reflection of how life, even for the very rich, has changed in the last 75 years. Today, few people in Britain — Saudi princes included — would think of employing 800 people for two years digging an ornamental lake. That is what William Waldorf Astor, the present Lord Astor's grandfather, did shortly after buying Haver — Anne Boleyn's childhood home, near Edenbridge in Kent — in 1903.

The story of the Astor fortune is an American legend. The family originated in the village of Waldorf, near Heidelberg. Just after the American War of Independence, John Jacob Astor, the fifth son of a butcher, left to become an instrument maker in London, whence he set out for the New World and a career in fur trading.

Astor invested his profit from furs in farmland, but it happened that the land he bought was on the edge of New York. He began with a half share in a 70-acre estate costing \$70,000, which ran from what is now Broadway to the Hudson above 42nd Street.

Although William Waldorf Astor, John Jacob's grandson, who was created a Viscount in 1917, chose a Red Indian and a frontiersman as supporters to his coat-of-arms, he had previously signed against the American ideal. In 1893, he left the country with the words, "America is not a fit place for a gentleman to live", and subsequently became a naturalized Briton.

For a former diplomat, William Waldorf was strangely by testies. His most famous gaffe was made at a concert he gave in his town house in Carlton House Terrace. A



The first Baron Astor of Haver and his wife, outside their home in 1960. The present owner of the castle, who is to move out in the summer, succeeded to the title in 1971

sleep at Carlton House Terrace, even after his own parties there, but went to the Astor Estate Office, on the Embankment.

When he showed Lady Warwick round this sumptuous, Gothic Revival building, he mysteriously revealed a lever. "If I were to press that," he said, "every door in the house would close, and you could not possibly get out without my permission." Then he smiled as he added, darkly: "You have nothing to be uneasy about, as you know, but I must take precautions."

Security was one vivid reason for buying a castle. Another was Astor's romantic love of the past, which he expressed in terrible writing. (Novels about Renaissance Italy were peppered with idioms like "By the keys of St Peter you send me upon a thorny quest"). As at Cliveden, the country house he bought in 1893, he built a tall wall round the park at Haver. It gave rise to the joke that Astor's real middle name was "Walled Off". The drawbridge at Haver was restored and pulled up at night.

As Astor himself wrote, he "wished to live in comfort in his medieval stronghold, having no desire to call up from the past the phantoms of the Plague, the Black Death, or the Sweating Sickness and other deadly dwellers in the castle of the Middle Ages." When F. L. Pearson restored the castle,

he created some opulent rooms, panelled in richly carved, exotic woods.

It was too much for the architect Philip Tilden, who thought Haver "might indeed have been another Bodiam, infinitely alluring as it sat as I first saw it in the 'thirties... but instead it has become a miniature Metropolitan Museum of New York."

An Italian garden was designed to take Astor's collection of antique and Renaissance statuary, which Pickfords transported from Rome in 1906. There is also a topiary garden, with topiary figures of chessmen based on originals from the time of Henry VIII which Astor had seen in the British Museum.

But the masterstroke was the guest wing. Astor, with his real love of the past, did not wish to damage the external look of the castle, so the guest rooms were put in what looked like a small Tudor village on the other side of the moat. To keep up the fiction, different parts were given names like Cobham Corner, Medley Cottage, the Smuggler's Room and Orchard Cottage. "I cannot imagine a more natural way of providing guest rooms," wrote Astor.

Until recently, this unusual arrangement seemed particularly well suited to late twentieth century needs. The castle and gardens could be shown to the public (they receive some 14,000 visitors a year) the Tudor village, with its smaller, more comfortable rooms, provided a secluded home for the family. Unfortunately, such was the opulence with which the castle, even that, has proved too big for today.

Clive Aslet

The author is a writer for Country Life

Waiting for Mr Jenkins

This by-election will be fought on national economic policy, on unemployment... it will not be parochial issues at stake

Mr Roy Jenkins' impending decision on whether to gamble on an early return to Parliament by offering himself to the voters of Glasgow, Hillhead, will not have been made any more than two opinion polls this week which give him the narrowest of leads over his likely Labour opponent.

Indeed, the NOP survey in the Daily Mail indicated that the vote for the Alliance would not be significantly different whether its candidate was the excessively publicized Mr Jenkins or the relatively unknown, but local Liberal nominee, Mr Charles Brodie. The clear implication is that Scots voters do not like English candidates.

For such a patently English Welshman to snatch a Scottish seat would be something of a psychological quirk. Almost all Scottish MPs of whatever persuasion are Scots by birth, or at least adoption. It is not simply raw xenophobic tartan nationalism at work; there is a serious undercurrent of belief that Scottish problems are often different from English ones, and that it takes a native to understand them.

No such thoughts trouble the Glasgow North branch of the Social Democrats, who voted unanimously on Tuesday night to invite Mr Jenkins as their candidate.

The local SDP chairman, Mr Ian McDonald, believes that Mr Jenkins' stature as a politician would tower over his slight impediment of being English.

"This by-election will be fought on national economic policy, on unemployment," Mr McDonald told me. "It will not be parochial issues at stake; it will be Alliance economics versus Bennite economics. They are national issues, and Mr Jenkins is by far the best man to present them."

The by-election is caused by the death last weekend of the sitting Conservative member. It is significant that the SDP do not even mention Conservative economics as a factor in the argument.

That Sir Thomas Galbraith, who with 33 years in the seat was Scotland's longest-serving MP, clung for so long to this oasis of Conservatism in the Clyde-side desert of social deprivation is an indication of what kind of constituency it is.

Lying just to the west of the city centre, Hillhead's dourly majestic Victorian terraces and villas, built on Glasgow's successive fortunes of cotton, tobacco and steel, sweep grandly down a gentle hillside from Gilbert

Scott's gothic University to the river, gathering in on the way a few pockets of a more familiar Glasgow, the industrial fringes of Whiteinch and Scotstoun, where a vestige of once-great Clydeside heavy industry struggles to survive.

But Hillhead is a predominantly middle-class enclave where, according to ancient Glasgow tradition, the accent

is so refined that sex is what the coal comes in. In a city where the local authority provides nearly three-quarters of the housing, Hillhead claims almost 90 per cent owner-occupation, with one-third of the householders retired people. It has not escaped the Social Democrats' notice that the demographic profile is similar to that of Crosby, where Mrs Williams demolished a once unassailable Tory majority.

Since the then Mr Galbraith won the seat in 1948, the electorate of Hillhead has shrunk by 8,000, and the Tory majority by a similar amount. Glasgow is being depopulated at the rate of 30,000 a year as its residents escape the rotting inner city to the pleasant suburbs. The trend continues.

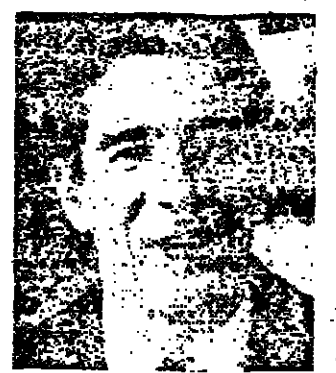
The rogue element in Hillhead's likely voting pattern is its university halls of residence and its belt of student bedsit land. The new electoral register to be pub-

lished in February is likely to include about 2,000 students, whose votes could have a decisive influence on the by-election result; in the 1979 general election the student vote helped to take Labour to only 2,003 votes short of victory.

The Tories, whose likely candidate is Mr Leonard Turpie, a Glasgow lawyer, face an uphill struggle to retain the seat with their stock dismally low in Scotland. Last month's opinion poll in *The Scotsman* gave them only 14 per cent support, trailing along beside the largely burnt-out Scottish Nationalists. Labour clung to top place with 36 per cent, with the Alliance close behind with 35 per cent, showing rather less well than in England.

Mrs Thatcher's economic policies cut little ice on Clydeside, once the humming workshop of the Empire and now with one man in five out of work — the sorry fact that will undoubtedly be the main campaigning plank of the Labour candidate, Mr David Wiseman.

Like Mr Jenkins, Mr Wiseman is a foreigner — a cockney, indeed — but he has the advantage of being a



Ian McDonald: Englishness won't handicap Jenkins



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UNBLOCKING THE ROCK

The agreement of Señor Calvo Sotelo, the Spanish Prime Minister, to lift the blockade of Gibraltar on April 20 should mark the opening of a new and more hopeful chapter in the story of the dispute. The closure of the border, decided by General Franco in 1969, was intended to bring pressure on Britain and Gibraltar to come to terms with Spain, but it had the opposite effect. It created resentment in Gibraltar towards Spain, and taught the inhabitants how to get on without the contacts they had always had across the border. The task now must be to try to erase the bitter feelings which have grown up during this time, and to restore normal dealings between the Gibraltarians and their neighbours in the Campo, because that is the only way in which the issue can ever be satisfactorily resolved.

It will not be a rapid process. At the moment there is an unbridgeable gap between the determination of the Gibraltarians not to become part of Spain and the belief of the Spanish government, shared by most Spaniards, that that is what they should be. Nothing of that is changed by yesterday's agreement. Spain maintains its claim to Gibraltar, and Britain maintains its commitment not to make any change in sovereignty over Gibraltar against the wishes of the inhabitants. But it has been agreed that simultaneously with the opening of the border, talks will open in Lisbon between Britain and Spain about Gibraltar; and that will provide a framework within which

proposals can be made. It is not excluded for all time that Gibraltar might become part of Spain. It is possible that if they were persuaded of Spain's good intentions, the Gibraltarians might one day lose their present hostility to the idea. For some time to come, however, the most fruitful approach will be to concentrate on methods of improving relations across the border.

Yesterday's agreement was the product of a slow evolution in Spanish attitudes. Ever since the end of the Franco regime there has been an awareness in some quarters in Madrid that the blockade of Gibraltar was doing the Spanish cause no good. In April 1980 an agreement was reached with Britain in Lisbon by which the border would be opened and negotiations on the future of Gibraltar begun; but it ran into opposition from the right and its implementation was postponed. Señor Calvo Sotelo has now felt strong enough to carry out the terms of the Lisbon agreement because he has been able to link the issue with Spain's imminent entry into Nato and its application to join the European Community. He has taken the view that it would be easier to make progress over Gibraltar once Spain was inside Nato — for example by having Spanish commanders in a Nato base in Gibraltar — and he has praised Britain for taking a positive attitude towards Spain in both its approaches.

For Britain, there is much to be gained from yesterday's agreement — and its success-

ful implementation. It removes the irritant of the Gibraltar blockade from Anglo-Spanish relations, and enables efforts to be directed in the more constructive direction of developing contacts between Gibraltar and Spain. At a time when Spain has returned to democracy, and is returning to the mainstream of European affairs by its applications to join the European Community and Nato, it would be extremely unfortunate if the hostility symbolized by the Gibraltar blockade was allowed to continue. Britain's interest is in having Spain as a democratic partner.

In all this, however, the interests of the Gibraltarians must be safeguarded. One of the ironies of the present situation is that, though they initially suffered from the Spanish blockade, the Gibraltarians are now anxious about the effects of opening the frontier. They are afraid of an influx of Spanish workers, at a time when the prospects of employment in the colony have been dealt a blow by the government's recently announced decision to close the naval dockyard. In the long run, the Gibraltarians cannot expect to remain indefinitely in a British cocoon. Their future must lie, to a great extent, in developing economic links with their Spanish hinterland. But thought must be given to helping them over any short-term economic difficulties; and for the long term they must be given no reason to believe that Britain is making decisions about their political future over their heads.

THE GREAT LIFEBOAT STAMPEDE

The Penlee lifeboat disaster was swift and terrible. The public's response to appeals on behalf of the victims' dependants was eager. But it was punctuated by dispute about the destination of the money being collected. A stampede was started by the action of the new crew of the Penlee lifeboat who went on token strike until they received assurance that the money would be distributed in the manner they thought fit — action that did not do honour to the tradition of the lifeboat service and would be better forgotten. Among those stampeded were the Prime Minister, the Attorney General, the Charity Commissioners, and Fleet Street. Within a couple of days there had been a flood of money, and the two principal funds, more than £2,500,000 would be divided between the families of the eight men who perished, three of whom were unmarried. All that remains is for the trustees to decide how the division is to be made.

The outcry was against bureaucrats, lawyers, dogooders, tax collectors or other modern demons interposing themselves between the donors and the objects of their benevolence. It was assumed and stated that all donors to both funds had one object in view: that all they gave should be made over to

the bereaved families. That assumption is manifestly false. Some did and do want that, some did not and do not, some did and do not. Letters received by *The Times* from its readers make that unmistakably plain. And it is just what common sense would lead one to suppose: if asked whether they would like their money to be used to top up donations of £300,000 to each family or to be used for other benevolent purposes of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, which is wholly dependent on voluntary public subscription, not all donors would be likely to choose the former.

People gave money out of admiration for the men who gave their lives, out of pity for their families, and out of a desire to help the lifeboatmen all round our coasts. The law of charity, which many assess in this instance pronounced to be an ass, would, if its provisions had been allowed to operate, have better matched that multiple motive of benevolence than does the upshot of the public stampede. It would not, for one thing, have left so uncomfortable a disparity between the gifts bestowed on the bereaved of this disaster and on those of Longhope (eight men lost in 1969) and Fraserburgh (five men lost in 1970) when appeals on each occasion brought in about

£100,000; or between the financial provision made for these widows and the circumstances of the 48 other widows of lifeboatmen lost on duty to whom the RNLI pays pensions of just under £40 a week to the age of sixty. It is of course open to the Mousehole families to give away to others some of what has been given to them. But it is harsh to have exposed them to that kind of decision in the glare of the public when they are already experiencing the sorrows and strains of bereavement.

A better way to handle disaster appeals must be found for the future. In a letter we publish today a correspondent makes the sensible suggestion that the Charity Commissioners should publish standard texts of alternative declarations of intent. One would be of the "post-box" type which both Penlee funds have now been made into. Others would be varieties of charitable trust permitting the application of any surplus to kindred charitable purposes after the needs of all those bereaved or injured in the disaster had been generously met. Anyone launching an appeal would announce which kind of fund he was opening, and newspapers would doubtless explain the implications to their readers.

Sugar discrimination

From the Chairman of Tate & Lyle, Limited
Sir, I dislike taking issue with my friend, Lord Campbell. He has always joined with Tate & Lyle in championing the interests of developing country cane sugar producers and he is rightly respected for his leadership and achievements.

However, I cannot agree with all his comments in his letter to you (January 5) about the intricate matter of the EEC's guaranteed price for ACP sugar in 1981-82. Lord Campbell says the British Government blocked a Commission proposal to pay an increase in price to the ACP exporters of 8½ per cent by refusing a package which other EEC members were prepared to accept. This is not the case. In fact Mr Buchanan-Smith made it clear in a written reply to a parliamentary question of December 16 that HM Government was prepared to accept an increase of 8½ per cent provided the cane storage levy rebate system for cane sugar was abolished. The issue is still unresolved because other member states were unwilling to accept the Commission's proposal.

The difficulty which faced the EEC Commission in seeking to improve the refiners' position was to find a way of doing this which would be acceptable to the ACP suppliers. It is indeed arguable that the Commission's original offer was favourable to the ACP exporters since the EEC beet sugar producers, who were given increases of 8½ per cent for white sugar and 7½ per cent for raw sugar, are required to pay a levy, the minimum amount being 2 per cent on Quota A production, leaving net increases of at best 6½ per cent and 5½ per cent respectively. Leaving aside this argument, the Commission revised their position to offering the ACP exporters 8½ per cent on the

terms which Mr Buchanan-Smith said would have been acceptable to the British Government. The cane storage levy rebate system which the Commission proposed was abolished has no refinancing whatsoever to cane refining which has a regular supply of raw sugar throughout the year, with supplies coming from both the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

In my view the Commission's revised proposal would have settled all the difficulties without imposing a recurrent financial burden on EEC funds. I much hope that at the end of the day good sense will prevail and that the issue will be resolved in the way proposed by the Commission and supported by the British Government. For my part I can see no earthly reason why this sensible compromise proposal should not also receive the full backing of the ACP sugar exporters.

Yours etc,
JELICOE,
Tate & Lyle, Limited,
Sugar Quay,
Lower Thames Street, EC3.

Outside Parliament

From Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead (Labour)
Sir, Surely Mr Lindsay Hall misses the point in his letter (January 2) on extra-parliamentary pressure? He lists a number of reforms such as the curtailment of despotic monarchy and the temporal powers of the Church, the abolition of the slave trade and child labour, the Reform Act and the enfranchisement of women, and says that it is "doubtful whether any of these reforms would have been possible without the work of groups outside Parliament as well as in it and the readiness of individuals to challenge, or even to break the law".

Every example quoted relates to a period before the granting of

a universal franchise. Is it possible to produce an equally impressive list of extra-parliamentary action over the past fifty years on which there is general agreement over the rightness of such action?

Part of the constituency I represent is desperately poor and unemployment must be affecting a third of the labour force. Many of the actions taken by Mrs Thatcher have increased the misery of many constituents and the temptation to take action outside Parliament is enormous. But if the left wants to be able to throw the rule book at any who try to illegally and unconstitutionally frustrate the implementation of our programme, do we not start from a stonier moral and political position if our own record on the rule of law is beyond question? It was this point that I thought Michael Foot was trying to make on the Tatchell affair.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK FIELD,
House of Commons.

Nurses' pay

From Miss Waltraud M. Kramp
Sir, A profession which requires A-level standard education and a high degree of devotion (not to mention considerable personal sacrifice working long, anti-social, staggered shifts) should conceivably be valued in terms of adequate financial reward.

The nursing salary, however, appears to stand in inverse proportion to the social value of its contribution to the infrastructure of any one place in this country. I can, thus, only conclude that waiting for Father Christmas to present nurses with a pay rise is just as untypical as seeing nurses take industrial action.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
WALTRAUD M. KRAMP,
University College Hospital,
Gower Street, WC1.

A new way with disaster funds

From Mr Graham S. Brown
Sir, May I make a proposal as to how, in future, the recurrence of distress arising out of disaster appeals might be avoided, and thus how the generosity of the British public in responding to such appeals might not be discouraged, legally thwarted or capriciously taxed?

The difficulties of the Penlee funds have followed those of the Lymouth floods, the Gillingham bus disaster and the Aberfan funds.

The problem arises, not from the law itself, but from the absence of an established structure within which disaster appeals can be mounted, recognising that appeals must necessarily be made urgently and emotionally. Such a structure could be created by the Charity Commissioners publishing model trusts for voluntary adoption by appeal committees. The trusts would be of two main types — benevolent, and charitable.

The former would be exemplified by the "post box" funds which it has now been found the fourth District Council's fund and the local fishermen's constitution.

Under the latter, the trustees would be required to apply the funds for the relief of the immediate wants, and of the pain and suffering of any surviving victims, and of the bereaved, and for the relief of hardship among them during the rest of their lives. Any surplus would clearly be made applicable for other charitable purposes.

Within this one version could provide for the application of surpluses for charitable purposes within the disaster community, another for the relief of distress arising from similar disasters past or future, and in appropriate cases yet another for the furtherance of the work of public service, voluntary or professional, related to the disaster.

These categories and sub-categories would reflect the spectrum of contributors' intentions apparent in the correspondence columns in recent days.

With careful drafting, it would even be legally possible (so long as the perpetuity rules were observed) to have a benevolent and charitable trust, combining both categories which in practice could pay the bereaved or any surviving victims a large lump sum, beyond compensation for pain and suffering, and provision for relief of hardship, and could apply any surplus for other charitable purposes.

Model trusts would enable committees to appeal on terms which would be clear to all — to the committee, to the public, to the victims' families and, where applicable, to the surviving victims themselves.

An appeal committee could simply say: "Please send donations to the Loamshire Disaster Fund, which we are constituting as a charitable/local community, Type A trust."

Such models need not fetter the trustees. On the contrary, not only could wider powers be elected he would reverse the process? Somehow I cannot quite envisage him in the rather rundown bedstider land which a substantial part of Hillhead comprises.

I do not believe any sensible person would ever expect an MP to cure all the ills in his constituency, but most people would vote for someone who they thought would tackle some of them and not merely regard the seat as a means of political expediency.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET DOOL,
5 Holyrood Quadrant,
Glasgow.
January 7.

His house in order
From Dr John Nicholson
Sir, Homer nods. Your Literary Editor fails to comment (January 4) on the most interesting feature of his list of novels most popular amongst applicants to the University College, London English Department. I refer of course to the decline and fall of Evelyn Waugh, from seventh position in 1980 to tenth last year. Was he, indeed, not being registered before the television people got there?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN NICHOLSON,
Bedford College (University of London),
Regent's Park, NW1.
January 4.

Rape case

From Mr G. M. Laurie
Sir, I am curious for your Legal Correspondent to amplify his view (January 6) that the concept of "contributory negligence" has no validity in the case of rape. If a 17-year-old girl were to stroll naked in Piccadilly Circus on Cup Final night, in view of the likely result could she initiate a complaint of rape? I would find it hard to understand that there had been no willing anticipation of the fruits of her part.

If she were to sunbathe nude during a June lunchtime in Hyde Park, her need to forethink the possible result might arguably be less.

If she hitch-hikes alone late at night, one would think that even with the most modest earlier parental guidance she would know, and by implication accept, the risk. Her prudent course is either to seek the best shelter available or to await a police patrol vehicle; to reject prudence is surely negligent.

Yours faithfully,
G. M. LAURIE,
56 Broadlands Avenue,
Buckinghamshire.
January 7.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hearing the personal voice in music

From Mr John Boulton
Sir, Such is the prestige of Anthony Burgess (article, December 29) that readers, especially young ones, might think that what he says about music having decayed with the death of Mozart is true. It is not; and some other things he has to say are misleading. Thus, Francis Routh (letter, January 5) is able to deal dismissively with Mr Burgess' wrong notions concerning tonality.

Tonality will be viewed by many readers as an intellectual concept; whereas music, *qua* music, is properly a matter for the ears and for the heart.

Anthony Burgess contrasts the domination of personality in the music of Beethoven with the subordination by Mozart of personality in the interests of artistic function. He who cannot see that the perfectly wrought 40th Symphony of Mozart is as personal an utterance as the "Eroica" of Beethoven, and that Beethoven's 7th Symphony is as classically conceived as Mozart's "Jupiter", must have ears of cloth and a heart of stone. Yet Anthony Burgess seeks to persuade us that whilst Mozart's works are classical, Beethoven's are romantic and different in nature, and inferior. The heavenly visions which music has vouchsafed Mr Burgess may well, as he says for himself, have "ceased to exist at about the time of the death of Mozart" — but happily not for the rest of us.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
JOHN BOULTON,
The Music Review,
18 Lillingstone Avenue,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire.
January 5.

From Mr Geoffrey E. Mulford
Sir, The statement by Mr Anthony Burgess on the condition of music in our time (*The Times*, December 29) could not be plainer. The situation is serious, for the state of music has a direct bearing on the harmony of the nation and indeed, by its international validity, on humanity as a whole. Plato unequivocally warns us (Republic VIII) that the first step on the slippery slope from perfect government to tyranny is taken when the Guardians undervalue music, a term which includes mathematics and poetry and well as harmony. Is it lost? It is a universal law, obvious to anyone who owns, for example, a brand-new car, that everything in creation runs from fine to coarse and eventually, if nothing is done to retard the

process, to the final disintegration of its form. This, however, need not be a steady line of descent. It is apparent in the history of Western music that at certain points, when the danger of becoming over-complex, a few men, dissatisfied with the condition of music as they found it, returned to the study of fundamental principles. A rebirth of musical ideas suitable to the time and place has then been the result.

In the fifteenth century Dunstable and his school laid the foundations of music in the Western tradition as we now understand it. In the seventeenth century the Camerata, Peri and Monteverdi founded opera by referring back to ancient Greek sources. In the eighteenth century C. P. E. Bach, amongst others, developed the simple and eloquent form of the classical movement.

The last point at which the need arose for re-evaluation was after the death of Mozart. Who could follow the master? Haydn commented: "The world will not see such talent again in a hundred years." In fact, almost two hundred years have elapsed. Was it perhaps for Beethoven to fulfil Mozart's prophecy of him: that he would give the world something to talk about? Should he have returned to basic principles and founded a new movement that would unite the aims of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries? In the event, he did not. Haydn, spotting the danger, had warned him against "boldness" but ignoring the advice Beethoven proceeded on his way and, without the necessary return of first principles, became a bridge between the Classical and Romantic movements. Hence the steady line of deterioration since his time.

There is no hope? Perhaps it is incumbent on those of us who compose, perform or enjoy listening to music, to review our appreciation of this high art. Before embarking upon one of these activities, should we not set the appropriate standards against the classical tradition of music given by Marsilio Ficino in a letter to Antonio Canigiani, "a man both learned and wise".

Quoting both Mercurius and Plato as his authority he said that music was given to us by God to sound the melody of temper, the mind and render Him praise." How much music of the last two hundred years would survive such a test?

Yours faithfully,
G. E. MULFORD,
29 Cromer Road, SW17.

copy, and that El Greco did generally elongate the faces of his angels, rather more than the faces in his portraits.

El Greco, in many more cogent arguments, the theory about El Greco still flickers on, as one of those engaging whimsies which seek to find an organic basis for art, and which can never be disproved. At least the day may continue to provide substance for "features" as enjoyable as that offered by Anthony Burgess on December 14.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK TREVOR-ROPER,
3 Park Square West,
Regent's Park, NW1.

Canon law revision
From the Secretary of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland
Sir, Your correspondent, David Samuel (December 22) writes of the review of canon law in the Catholic Church revealing a "conservative" trend. Until the final text is promulgated, such judgments are premature.

However, as one who has seen the most recent text, can I refer to its sections on human rights, the rights and duties of lay people, the mandatory consultation and the involvement of lay people's professional expertise in the running of the Church, the duty to promote ecumenism, the freedom of theological research, etc. Surely these are worth "conserving".

Above all, and most strikingly, the tone of the text is pastoral rather than legalistic.

Yours sincerely,
J. JOYCE,
Secretarial Offices,
Diocese of Portsmouth Finance Office,
First Floor,
27 Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth.

Tennyson's desk
From Mr John Howard
Sir, Much as we residents of Tealyby would like to claim the little stream which runs down through the vale by the Bayon's Manor site as the inspiration of Tennyson's poem, the somewhat embittered relationship between Tennyson and the Somersby branches of the family would seem to make the story of the desk at Bayon's (letter, January 5) rather unlikely.

Tennyson was 28 years old when he left Lincolnshire and may well have written "The Brook" elsewhere, but his youthful memories of Somersby have surely influenced the poem.

In making a film of Alfred's Lincolnshire years for educational purposes, *Tennyson Country*, we used several sections of the Somersby stream on its journey through the Wolds and were delighted to find how closely many of these scenes corresponded to the words of "The Brook". Using the Tealyby stream would have produced a less convincing parallel between the landscape and the poetry.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOWARD, Director,
Lincolnshire Educational Television,
Bishop Grosseteste College,
Lincoln.
January 7.

Behind the rail strike

From Mr F. M. Jacques
Sir, May I amplify a little what you wrote in your leader "Asleep on a limb" (December 30). You rightly accuse Mr Buckton of hubbub, but you don't make clear the cause of his hubbub. It is that ultimately his job is at stake, just that, and any rational productivity agreement would hasten its termination. So it seems he'll go on talking endless poppycock about this and that for as long as he can.

The duties performed by present-day members of Aslef aren't those of craftsmen; there is no longer any case for the continued separate existence of this craft union. Any bloke who can read, has good sight and isn't colour-blind could qualify to sit at ease and drive a diesel or electric loco; most guards and many porters could do the job as well as clear the tracks and learning the road and a number have already done so. The London bus drivers regard hours spent in a diesel or electric loco cab — cab, mark you, no longer foot-plate — as a piece of cake. There's no need for double manning, except in a minority of exceptional cases, and there's every good reason for turns of duty ranging between seven and nine hours.

Understandably Mr Buckton doesn't want the chop, even with a compensating handshake; his executive committee members don't want their regular visits to their Hampstead headquarters to cease. Of course not.

But isn't that why he and others seem prepared to put the future of British Rail in jeopardy and consign the Labour Party to further years on the Opposition benches?

Chuck it, Buckton.
Yours truly,
F. M. JACQUES,
Vine Cottage,
Bourn, Cambridge.

Bench marks
From Mr Simon Edisson
Sir, Tom Benyon (December 30) believes the Government front benches are short of poets, broadcasters, hot viveurs and wits. From outside the heady heights of the Commons most of us could identify other, more critical talents which have been as elusive as the bear on Hackney Marshes!

Yours faithfully,
SIMON EDISON,
30 Chester Square, SW1.

Saturday Review

On a summer day by the lake shore, 46-year-old Harry 'Rabbit' Angstrom, late-century American provincial man, swims, plays tennis, jogs, lusts . . . and broods on the living and the lost. Somehow, in 1979, he feels

There must be a good way to live

by John Updike

Water. Rabbit distrusts the element though the little brown four-legged lake that laps the gritty beach in front of the Springers' old cottage in the Poconos seems friendly and tame, and he swims in it every day, taking a dip before breakfast, before Janice is awake, and while Ma Springer in her quilted bathrobe fusses at the old oil stove to make the morning coffee.

On weekdays when there aren't so many people around he walks down across the coarse imported sand wrapped in a beach towel and, after a glance right and left at the cottages that flank the back in the pines, slips into the lake naked. What luxury! A chill silver embrace down and through his groin. Gnats circling near the surface shatter and reassemble as he splashes through them, cleaving the plane of liquid stillness, sending ripples right and left toward muddy rooky banks city blocks away. A film of mist sits visible on the skin of the lake if the hour is early enough.

He was never an early-to-rise freak but sees the point of it now, you get into the day at the start, before it gets rolling, and roll with it. The film of mist tastes of evening chill, of unpolluted freshness in a world waking with him.

As a kid Rabbit never went to summer camps, maybe Nelson is right they were too poor, it never occurred to them. The hot cracked sidewalks and dusty playground of Mt. Judge were summer enough, and the few trips to the Jersey Shore his parents organized stick up in his remembrance as almost torture, the hours on poky roads in the old Model A and then the mud-brown Chevy, his sister and mother adding to the heat the vapours of female exasperation. Pop dogged at the wheel, the back of his neck sweaty and scrawny and freckled while the flat little towns of New Jersey threw back at Harry distorted echoes of his own town, his own life, for which he was homesick after an hour.

Town after town numbingly demonstrated to him that his life was a paltry thing, roughly duplicated by the millions in settings where houses and porches and trees mocking those in Mt. Judge fed the illusions of other little boys that their souls were central and dramatic and invisibly cherished. He would look at the little girls on the sidewalks they drove alongside, wondering which of them he would marry, for his idea of destiny was to move away and marry a girl from another town.

The traffic as they neared the Shore became thicker, savage, metropolitan. Cars, he has always found cars, their glint, their exhaustions, cruel. Then at last arriving in the parking lot full, the bath-house attendant rude — they would enter upon a few stifled hours on the alien beach whose dry sand burned the feet and scratched in the crotch and whose wet ribs where the sea had receded had a deadly, bottomless smell, a small, of vast death. Every found shell had this frightening faint stink.

His parents in bathing suits alarmed him. His mother didn't look obscenely fat like some of the other mothers but bony and long and hard, yellowish in colour, clayey, and as she stood to call him or little Mim back from the suspect crowds of strangers or the dangerous rumour of undertow her arms seemed to be flapping like featherless wings. Not Rabbit then, he would be called as "Hassy! Hassy!"

And his father's skin where the workclothes always covered

it seemed so tenderly white. He loved his father for having such whiteness upon him, secretly, pure as treasure; in the bath-house he and Pop changed together and the sight of his father's utterly white buttocks cut into him forever, emblem of the sad mystery at the centre of life on earth.

The ride back to Diamond County was always long enough for the sunburn to start hurting. He and Mim would start slapping each other just to hear the other yell and to relieve the boredom of this wasted day that could have been spent among the fertile intrigues and perfected connexions of the playground.

In his memory of these outings they always seem to be climbing towards the ocean as towards a huge blue mountain. Sometimes at night before falling to sleep he hears his mother say with a hiss, "Hassy!"

He sees now that he is rich that these were the outings of the poor, ending in sunburn and stomach upset. Pop liked crabcakes and baked oysters but could never eat them without throwing up. When the Model A was tucked into the garage and little Mim tucked into bed Harry could hear his father vomiting in a far corner of the yard. He never complained about vomiting or about work, they were just things you had to do, one more regularly than the other.

So as a stranger to summer places Rabbit had come to this cottage. Fred Springer had bought rather late in his life, after the Toyota franchise had made him more than a used-car dealer, after his one child was married and grown. Harry and Janice used to come for just visits of a week. The space was too small, the tensions would begin to rub through, with Nelson bored and bug-eaten after the first day or so.

When the old man Springer died Harry became the man of the place and at last understood that Nature isn't just something that pushes up through the sidewalk cracks and keeps the farmers trapped in the sticks but a luxury, a delicacy that can be bought and fenced off and kept pure for the more fortunate, in an impure age.

Not that this five-room, dark-shingled cottage, which Ma Springer rents for all but these three weeks of August, taking the Labor Day gravy and renting into hunting season if she can, was in any league with the gabled estates and lodges and resort hotels that are all around them tumbling down or being broken up by developers; but it has two acres of woods behind it and a dock and rowboat of its own, and holds out to Harry the possibility that life can be lived selectively, as one chooses from a menu, or picks a polished fruit from a bowl.

Here in the Poconos food, exercise, and sleep, no longer squeezed into the margins of the day, swell to a sweet importance. The smell of fresh coffee drifting to greet him as he walks still wet back from his swim; the kiss of morning fog through a rusted window screen; the sight of Janice with bare brown feet wearing the same cut-off jeans and kid's black T-shirt day after day; the blue jay switching stances on the porch rail; the smooth rose-veined rock holding shut the upstairs door that has lost its latch; the very texture of root-riddled mud and reeds where the fresh cedar dock pilings have been driven: he feels love for each phenomenon and not for the first time in his life seeks to bring himself into harmony with the intertwining simplicities that uphold him at that were woven into him at



Michael Davidson

birth. There must be a good way to live.

He eases off on the gin and snacks. He swims and listens to Ma Springer reminisce over the morning coffee and goes down into the village with Janice each day to shop. At night they play three-handed pinochle by the harsh light of bridge lamps, the light feeling harsh because when he had first come to this place they lit kerosene lamps, with fragile interior cones of glowing ash, and went to bed soon after dark, the crickets throbbing.

He does not like to fish, nor does he much like playing tennis with Janice against one of the other couples that have access to the lake community's shared court, an old rectory of clay in the pines, the edges coated with brown needles and the chicken-wire fencing drooping like wet wash. Janice plays every day at the Flying Eagle, and beside her efficient grace he feels cumbersome and comical. The ball seems too small and the racket is not his hand.

Her black T-shirt has on it in faded 3-D script the word *Phillies*; it is a shirt he bought Nelson on one of their excursions to Veterans Stadium, and the boy left it behind when he went away to Kent, and Janice in her middle-aged friskiness found it and made it hers. Typical of the way things have gone, that the kid's growing up should seem a menace and a tragedy to him and to her an excuse to steal a T-shirt.

Not that it would fit Nelson anymore. It fits her fine; he feels her beside him in the corner of his eye nimbler and freer than he in her swarthy thick-middled old girl's shape with her short hair and bouncing bangs.

The ball arcs back steadily from her racket while he hits it too hard or else, trying to "stroke" it like she tells him, pops it weakly into the net. "Harry, don't try to steer it," she says. "Think spaghetti arm. Point your hip toward the net." She has had a lot of lessons. The decade past has taught her more than it has taught him.

What has he done, he wonders as he waits to receive the serve, with this life of his more than half over? He was a good boy to his mother and then a good boy to the crowds at the basketball games, a good boy to

Tothero his old coach, who saw in Rabbit something special. And Ruth saw in him something special too, though she saw it winking out.

For a while Harry had kicked against death, then he gave in and went to work. Now the dead are so many he feels to the living around him the camaraderie of survivors. He loves these people with him, penned in among the lines of the tennis court. Ed and Loreta: he's an electrical contractor from Easton specializing in computer installations.

Harry thinks spaghetti arm and the ball flies above their heads; Harry loves the treetops above their heads, and the August blue above these. What does he know? He never reads a book, just the newspaper to have something to say to people, and then mostly human interest stories, like where the Shah is heading next and how sick he really is, and that Baltimore doctor.

He loves Nature, though he can name almost nothing in it. Are these pines, or spruces, or firs? He loves money, though he doesn't understand how it flows to him, or how it leaks

away. He loves men, uncomplaining with their pot bellies and cross-hatched red necks, embarrassed for what to talk about when the game is over, whatever the game is.

What a threadbare thing we made of life! Yet what a marvellous thing the mind is, they can't make a machine like it, though some of these computers Ed was telling about fill rooms; and the body can do a thousand things there isn't a factory in the world can duplicate the motion. He used to love screwing, though more and more he's willing just to think about it and let the younger people fight over it, meeting in their bars and cars, among how many of them are suddenly, just walking down the street now or getting into a movie line he often seems to be the oldest guy in sight.

He begins to run. In the woods, along the old logging roads and bridge trails, he ponderously speeds in tennis shoes first, orange with clay dust, and then in gold-and-blue Nikes bought as a sporting goods shop in Stroudsburg, especially for this, running shoes with tipped-up soles at toe and heel, soles whose resilient circlits like flattened cleats lift him powerfully as, growing lighter and quicker and quieter, he runs.

At first he feels his weight like some murderous burden swaddled about his heart and lungs and his thigh muscles ache in the morning so that he sags in leaving the bed and laughs aloud in surprise. But as over the days, running after supper in the cool of the early evening while all the light has not ebbed from the woods, he accustoms his body to this new demand, his legs tighten, his weight seems less, his chest holds more air, the twigs fly past his ears as if winged on their own, and he extends the distance he jogs eventually managing the mile and a half to the waist of the hourglass, where the gates of an old estate bar the way.

Carbon Castle the locals call the estate, built by a coal baron from Scranton and now little utilized by his scattered and dwindled descendants, the swimming pool drained, the tennis courts overgrown, energy gone. The glass eyes of the stuffed deer heads in the hunting lodge stare through cobwebs; the great main house with its precipitous slate roofs and diamond-paned windows is boarded up, though ten years ago one of the grandsons tried to make of it a commune, the villagers say. The young people vandalized the place, the story runs, and sold off everything they could move, including the two bronze brontosaurus that guarded the main entrance, emblems of the Coal Age.

The heavy iron gates to Carbon Castle are double-chained and padlocked; Rabbit touches the forbidding metal, takes a breath for a still second while the world feels still to be rushing in, pouring through corners and the little hairs between the joints and the nails, translucent like the thin sheets. There are feet that have done worse than his, on a lot of women's in summer sandals you notice how the little toes have been bent under by years of pointy high-heeled shoes, and the big toes pushed over so the joint sticks out like a broken bone; thank God since he is a man that has never had to happen to him. Nor to Cindy Murkett either, come to think of it: chubby and square as a baby boy's on the poolside flagstones, toes side by side like candies in a box. Suck. That lucky stiff Webb. Still. It's good to be alive.

Harry goes downstairs and adds the fourth element to his happiness; he lights a fire. Ma Springer, riding shrewdly with the times, has bought a new wood stove. Its bright black flue pipe fits snugly into the scragged old fireplace of ugly fieldstones. Old man Springer had installed baseboard electric heat when the cottage was connected for electricity, but his widow begrudges the expense of turning it on, even though by August the nights bring in a chill from the lake.

The stove was made in Taiwan and clean as a skillet, installed just this summer. Harry lays some rough sticks found around the cottage on top of a crumpled Sports page from the Philadelphia *Bulletin* and watches them catch, watches the words *Eagles Ready* ignite and blacken, the letters turning white on the crackling ash; then he adds some crescent-shaped scraps of planed fruitwood a local furniture-maker sells by the bushel outside his factory. This fire greets the dark as Janice and her mother, the dishes done, come in and get out the pinochle deck.

© John Updike 1982

An extract from John Updike's latest novel, *Rabbit* is Rich, to be published on Monday by Andre Deutsch at £7.95

There is along the way an open space, once a meadow, now spiked with cedars and tassle-headed weeds, where swallows dip and career, eating insects revived in the evening damp. Like these swallows Rabbit, the blue and gold of his new shoes flickering, skims, above the earth, above the dead.

The dead stare upwards, Mom and Pop lying together again as for so many years on that swayed-back bed they'd bought second-hand during the Depression and never got around to replacing though it squeaked like a tricycle left out in the rain and was so short Pop's feet stuck out of the covers. Papery-white feet that got mottled and marbled with veins finally, if he'd ever have exercised he might have lived longer.

Tothero down there is all eyes, eyes big as saucers staring out of his lopsided head, while his swollen tongue looks for a word. Fred Springer, who put him where he is, egging him on, hunched over and grimacing like a man with a poker hand so good it hurts. Skeeter, that that newspaper clipping claimed had fired upon the Philly cops first even though there were twenty of them in the yard and hallways and only some pregnant mothers and children on the commune premises, Skeeter black as the earth turning his face away.

The meadow ends and Harry enters a tunnel, getting dark now, the needles a carpet, he makes no sound, Indians moved without sound through trees without end where a single twig snapping meant death, his legs in his fatigue cannot be exactly controlled but flail against the cushioned path like arms of a loose machine whose gears and joints have been bevelled by wear. Becky, a mere seed laid to rest, and Jill, a pale seedling, held from the sun, hang in the earth, he imagines, like stars, and beyond them there are

myriads, whole races like the Cambodians, that have drifted into death.

He is treading on them all, they are resilient, they are cheering him on, his lungs are burning, his heart hurts, he is a membrane removed from the hosts below, their filaments caress his his ankles, he loves the earth, he will never die.

The last hundred feet, up their path to the tilting front porch, Rabbit sprints. He opens the front screen door and feels the punky floorboards bounce under him. The milk-glass shades of the old kerosene lamps, increasingly valuable as antiques, tremble like the emeralds barefoot from the kitchen and says, "Harry, you're all red in the face."

"I'm — all — right."

"Sit down. For heaven's sakes. What are you training for?"

"The big bout," he pants. "It feels great. To press against. Your own limitations."

"You're pressing too hard if you ask me. Mother and I thought you got lost. We want to play pinochle."

"I got to take. A shower. The trouble with running is. You get all sweaty."

"I still don't know what you're trying to prove." With that Phillies shirt on she looks like Nelson, before he filled out and needed to shave.

"It's now or never," he tells her, the blood of fantasy rushing through his brain. "There's people out to get me. I can lie down now. Or fight."

"Who's out to get you?"

"You should know. You hatched him."

The hot water here runs off a little electric unit and is scalding for a few minutes and then cools with alarming rapidity. Rabbit thinks, a good way to kill somebody would be to turn off the cold water while they're in the shower.

He hops out before the hot gives out totally, admires the wet prints of his big feet on the bare pine floors of this attic-shaped upstairs, and thinks of his daughter. Her feet in those cork-soled platforms. With her legs pale and calm round face she glows like a ghost but unlike the dead shares the skin of this planet with him, breathes air, immerses herself in water, moves from element to element, and grows.

He goes into the bedroom he and Janice have here and dresses himself in jockey shorts, an alligator shirt, and soft Levi's all washed and tumble-dried at the laundromat behind the little Acme in the village. Each crisp item seems another tile of his well-being he is fitting into place.

As he sits on the bed to put on fresh socks a red ray of late sun slices through a gap in the pines and flickers knifelike across his toes, the orangish corns and the little hairs between the joints and the nails, translucent like the thin sheets. There are feet that have done worse than his, on a lot of women's in summer sandals you notice how the little toes have been bent under by years of pointy high-heeled shoes, and the big toes pushed over so the joint sticks out like a broken bone; thank God since he is a man that has never had to happen to him. Nor to Cindy Murkett either, come to think of it: chubby and square as a baby boy's on the poolside flagstones, toes side by side like candies in a box. Suck. That lucky stiff Webb. Still. It's good to be alive.

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

VICTOR ROCHON presents
SATURDAY NEXT, 26 JANUARY at 8

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Muskratzer Singers Piano Concerto No. 1
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Overture, '1812'


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MONDAY, 25 JANUARY at 8 p.m. Willisau van Wyck presents
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Berlioz: Roman Carnival
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Louis Fremaux **Marguerite Wolff**
conductor piano
E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 8

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
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Imogen and Williams Hall presents

TAKASHI SHIMIZU violin

John Blakey piano

PROKOFIEV : Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 80
RAYEV : Sonata for violin and piano
SADY-SAEENS : Sonata No. 1 in D major, Op. 75
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Queen Elizabeth Hall debut of the Swedish pianist

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Stravinsky : Sonata
Schubert : Fantasia in C, D984
Widmark Berkeley : Strange Meeting
Beethoven : 15 Variations Op. 35 (Eroica)
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7.30 p.m.
PETER O'HAGAN piano Prokofiev: Sonata No. 7 in B flat,
Op. 80, Mendelssohn: Concerto for Violin and Piano, Robert
Schumann: Six Etudes op. 10 London etc., Brahms: Three
intermezzi, Opus Nos. 1-3, Schumann: Etudes
Opus Nos. 12,
£1.25, £2, £2.50

Wednesday Jan 27
7.30 p.m.
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MUSIC OF EIGHT COUNTRIES (RHS Waterloo Road), Nigel Ogden will play claret Elliot Grant, Joseph Upton, John Cadden, Luciano Berio and himself, all of whom are participants in this evening's concert. BBC/LOCB	
Friday 8.00 pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA <i>Vladimir Ashkenazy</i> (conductor), <i>Walter Dargatzis</i> (violin) Netherlands Philharmonic Choir 24.50, 22.50, 20.50, 18.50, 16.50, 14.50, 12.50, 10.50, 8.50, 6.50, 4.50, 2.50, 1.50, 1.00
Saturday 8.00 pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA <i>Wladimir Ashkenazy</i> (conductor), <i>Walter Dargatzis</i> (violin) Netherlands Philharmonic Choir 24.50, 22.50, 20.50, 18.50, 16.50, 14.50, 12.50, 10.50, 8.50, 6.50, 4.50, 2.50, 1.50, 1.00
Sunday 3.15 pm	ALFRED BRENDAL (soprano), <i>Walter Dargatzis</i> (violin), <i>Victor Bonafant</i> , <i>K. N.330</i> Schubert: Sonata in B-flat, Op. 10, No. 6; Haydn: Sonata, Op. 11, No. 1 24.50, 22.50, 20.50, 18.50, 16.50, 14.50, 12.50, 10.50, 8.50, 6.50, 4.50, 2.50, 1.50, 1.00
Sunday 7.30 pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA <i>Wladimir Ashkenazy</i> (conductor), <i>Walter Dargatzis</i> (violin) Netherlands Philharmonic Choir 24.50, 22.50, 20.50, 18.50, 16.50, 14.50, 12.50, 10.50, 8.50, 6.50, 4.50, 2.50, 1.50, 1.00
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Tuesday 7.30-8.30 pm	MARGARETTA THOMAS (soprano) J.C. Bach Hareichelch Quartet: Chorale Fantasia Op.4 Dante's R. 403: Songs by J.C. Bach, Storck, Mena Quartet: J.C. Bach, Storck, Mena, Storck, White	Choreography Management
Wednesday 7.30-8.30 pm	CAMPICCHIONI ENSEMBLE (S.S. Bach Two Sonatas in G: Kochanik Sonatina for solo flute: Lanner Serenade for strings: Schubert's R. 403: Songs by J.C. Bach, and harpichord: J.S. Bach Two Sonatas in C minor The Sonata for Cello Concerto	Choreography Management
Thursday 7.30-8.30 pm	ANGELA NOLANDE (soprano) Op.65 No. 1: Polonaise Op.71 No. 3: Chopin Polonaise, Op.65 No. 1: Polonaise Op.71 No. 3: Polonaise Fantasy, Op.65 No. 1: Polonaise Op.71 No. 3: Polonaise Studies E.C. 25.50, 25.50, 25.50	Gordon Dumackley
Friday 7.30-8.30 pm	SIMON DRAKE (bary), ALAN PEARCE (soprano) Harp: Variations in F minor: Between Spanish and A. Op.101 Cello: Spanish Suite for Peñarage E.C. 25.50, 25.50, 25.50	Helen Jenkins Concert Agency
Saturday 7.30-8.30 pm	Between Two in B flat Op.111: Ravel's Les Harpes D'Orléans Op.111: Ravel's Les Harpes D'Orléans Duet in B minor, Op.111: London Music Products	London Music Products
Sunday 7.30-8.30 pm	DAVID CARMATH (piano) Sonia Nederman (mezzo-soprano) Shubert R. 403: Songs by J.C. Bach, Storck, Mena, Storck, White Cello: Spanish Suite for Peñarage E.C. 25.50, 25.50, 25.50	Choreography Management
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14th Frank Braggins	25th Gerard Sooyzy
16th Somparsky's Almanac	28th Academy of Ancient Music
20th Sequenza Corta	29th, 31st Gerard Sooyzy Master
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AWAYERS (R) 11:15
(test Sns) 4:30, 6:30, 8:45.

ACADEMY 2, 437 99th St. (Midway)
Wife's a slutty (R) 11:15
Coke, the 1st (R) 1:45, Perla:
2:30 (Not Sns) 8:30, 10:15.

ACADEMY 3, 437 99th St. Kurosawa's
1972's *SEVEN SAMURAI* (R)
4:15, 7:45, Sns.

CANADA Plaza, 498 2443, 7th
Cannier's lunch (R)
Cannier's 1st 10 years (R) 11:15
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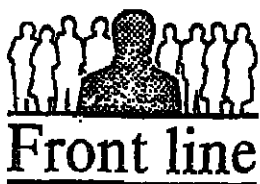
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Susan Fleetwood

who appears in the RSC production of Arthur Schnitzler's 'La Ronde' opening at the Aldwych on Monday



Front line

Though the race to stage Schnitzler's *La Ronde*, now that it is out of legal and copyright difficulties, has been narrowly won by the Royal Exchange company in Manchester, the RSC in London are coming a close second, leaving BBC television's production to trail by several weeks. John Barton, as adapter and director for the Aldwych, has his version running from Monday with Susan Fleetwood at the head of a strong cast.

Miss Fleetwood is of course no stranger to the RSC, a company she first joined in 1967, leaving in 1975 to join the National and returning to the Stratford fold five years later. Though her brother is the Fleetwood of Fleetwood Mac, hers has been a resolutely uncommercial, indeed almost austere, career: occasional television series (most recently *The Good Soldier*) and a film from which she was eventually totally cut (*Forbush and the Penguins*) have been virtually the only interruptions to prolonged stays with the two major subsidised companies, and after almost 20 years in the business she has yet to make her West End debut.

"I suppose it's just that I've always liked the company life, never wanted to go out into the marketplace and test my luck. I know that as a result I'm really too little known for the work I do" (she was Ophelia to both Albert Finney and Ian McKellen, is currently Rosalind at the Aldwych and was an unforgettable Pigeon Mike at the National) "and I know that I might be more useful to the RSC if my name could actually tempt people into a theatre the way that say Helen Mirren's does. But I'm just not very famous and there's not a lot you can do about that until the right television comes along."

Born 36 years ago in Scotland, the daughter of an RAF pilot, Susan Fleetwood spent most of her early life travelling with her father: "My education was shot to hell but it was a wonderful life and then in the mid-fifties we settled back in England on a Thames barge; I was dyslexic, though at the time nobody knew much about that and they thought I was just daft not to read or write much at 14. Reading and learning lines is still a struggle, though I have

Theatreground tour of *The Hollow Crown*.

That RSC start gave Susan Fleetwood a taste for recitals which is still very strong; she has indeed just returned from a gruelling tour of Southern California leading an RSC group of "actors in residence" around the campus circuit, lecturing and playing instant Shakespeare to large gatherings of drama students.

"What seemed to interest them most was that I was Fleetwood Mac's sister. They kept asking how a rock star and a classical actress could have come out of the same parentage, so I told them it was very much the same kind of life. We're both to do with large audiences and rhythm and making a lot of noise on a stage. That seemed to satisfy them."

When *La Ronde* reaches the end of its limited season at the Aldwych this spring, Susan Fleetwood will find herself out of a job for the first time in many months.

"None of those young new directors at Stratford seems to want me this summer, and I've not been asked to go into the Barbican, so I'll just have to see what the outside world is like."

Unmarried, living alone in a flat in Hackney after two long liaisons with Shakespearean directors, Susan Fleetwood has a single-minded dedication to the business of being an actress which seems to rule out much of a private life. "I'm always amazed and faintly envious when actors manage to get married and have children and think about schools and houses and weekends."

"I think I may now be coming up to a difficult time, the theatrical menopause when they stop casting you as mistresses and yet you're still too young for the old cronies. I've still my Beatrice to do, and I hope a Lady Macbeth, though in fact I've always played much older than I am. At 16 I felt 30 and now I still feel 30. Because I lead a rather solitary life I'm good on energy; when Terry Hands and I broke up it was still possible for us to go on working together in the theatre. I suppose because that was what had brought us together in the first place. You can do so much with directors you know and love, but in the end all that really matters is the acting."

Sheridan Morley



Susan Fleetwood: between mistress and crone

Teleview/Elkan Allan

Hollywood hostilities

Eight ITV programme executives leave for Hollywood tomorrow with Leslie Halliwell, their film and filmed series buyer. On Monday, a more modest BBC entourage — Gunner Rugheimer, Halliwell's opposite number, and Alan Hart, Controller of BBC1 — also arrive.

The parties will stay in different hotels, and although they will be shown the same films by the same people, they will take care never to come face to face. They are deadly rivals, each team attempting first to pick the winners among this year's score of new series from the American networks and then to buy their British use for the lowest possible price. Sometimes both sides want the same package; the auction that then results is more bitter than anything seen at Sotheby's or Christie's.

Two years ago the toughest battle was over a series called *Supertrain*, which both sides were convinced would be the ratings-grabber of the year. In the event, the BBC's victory turned to ashes when the series was derailed early in its American run, being laughed off the NBC screen for its unconvincing train models and the banality of the plots going on inside the speeding express. It never even reached British screens and had to be written off by an embarrassed BBC.

complaints that we were pushing up the prices beyond them. For only a million more, we had picked up much better value. Going to the auction, Alan Hart, an example of the kind of antagonism that never used to exist."

Only in this area of American purchases and sport does the gentlemanly mask slip from the faces of the two British television monopolies. There was the little matter of *Dallas*, for instance.

"We don't want *Dallas*, *Knots Landing* or the next one the BBC has bought, *Dynasty*," says Halliwell so smoothly that you almost believe him. "They are too difficult for us to schedule. Look how we had to run the excellent series we bought from Irish television, *Strumpet City*, on a split network at 10.45 pm." That argument doesn't, of course, take such a line as *Magnum* and *Quincy* into account, both of which have been networked at peak time in the last few months (and, incidentally, have done poorly in the ratings).

Nevertheless, the distributors of *Dallas* claimed that they had a better offer from ITV than they had from the BBC to renew *JR* and *Co* this season, and they were therefore switching channels. Only after the BBC took

out writs to enforce their verbal contract, both in America and Britain, did Worldvision yield.

Halliwell claims that it was all a misunderstanding, and that at no time did he make a firm counter-offer. He says he was asked a hypothetical question, "Would you pick it up if the BBC don't come up with a better offer?" and after protesting that neither side poached from the other, replied that he would have to think about it.

Personally, I welcome an eyeball-to-eyeball battle over American purchases, and would like to see such animosity between the BBC and ITV carried over to more parts of programming. What is the point of having a theoretically competitive television set-up if they don't compete? When they openly cooperate, the results are usually deadening, as in the recently established joint ratings body, which has removed the monthly public confrontation over who had most viewers, and with it some of the spice of television life.

With Channel Four coming along later this year to take on BBC 2, the pitch of competition is fortunately bound to intensify, and there will almost certainly be more animosity this week in Hollywood than ever before. I only hope that the spoils are worth fighting over.

Radio/David Wade

Looking for balance

Like *The Reith Lectures* which preceded it, last Wednesday's Radio 4 discussion, *The Two-Edged Sword — A Question of Security*, did much to underline the awful complexity of East-West relations. Professor Laurence Martin opened by reminding us of what he had said of the dangers of utopian expectations of disarmament. The use of military force will remain part of human behaviour: therefore some kind of balance of power is necessary, both of conventional and — since they exist and also seem unlikely to go away — nuclear forces.

But what is a balance of power? Frank Barnaby, until recently head of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, thought that Professor Martin had given a somewhat bland view when he stated that as a percentage of gross national product Russia spends twice as much on arms as the United States without making it clear that American GNP is roughly double that

of the Soviet Union. Does this even things up? The Warsaw Pact possesses 20,000 tanks to Nato's 7,000. That doesn't sound much like a balance, until we learn that Nato has more than enough reliable anti-tank missiles to wipe the whole lot out. Where is the balance now? Nato's forces are somewhat spread around; the opposition's relatively concentrated. But, said Professor John Erikson, their capacities as an effective fighting machine have probably been over-rated. So do we have a balance or do we not?

It may be, I suppose, that the parties to this discussion who also included Field-Marshal Lord Carver and Robin Cook MP, have these and a thousand other bits of information so clear and ordered in their minds that they know whether they represent a balance. But I wouldn't like to bank on it. For one thing, what of the available information does each regard as important? To your dedicated unilateralist, it is of overwhelming import-

ance to know that the nuclear armoury is doubling every decade. How can that go on, he asks, without catastrophe? But perhaps it can. To your equilibrist, on the other hand, the levels are less worrying than the balance — if he and others agree on what a balance is. It was perhaps indicative of such difficulties that Michael Charlton as chairman never managed to move the debate beyond this sort of topic.

A further problem of such discussions, as of the Lectures themselves, is that, complex as its interpretation in the minds of the speakers — let alone the available information — far exceeds that of the average listener. This makes it even harder than it need be to assess what we hear. Such information chasms aren't likely to close, but they might be narrowed, and it seems to me that if radio is to promote the nuclear debate then it ought to offer its listeners a means of judging what they hear. We need to learn from

mouths other than those defending a position what, for example, are the components of a balance of power and what, if only roughly, they add up to.

The first play in a new series of Capital Playhouse (January 3) was Martin Burrows' *Love in a Mist* in a nice production by Liane Aukin. What distinguished it, however, was the keenly observed, well written part of a mentally retarded boy, quite beautifully performed by Nigel Anthony. Regrettably the author's handling of the world we call normal was a good deal less convincing. Radio 4's *Thirty Minute Theatre* (January 2, and repeated on January 5) came up with a delightful original: family life as revealed in *The Diary of Nigel Mole, Aged 13*. In this monologue by Sue Townsend, young Mole played all deadpan by Nicholas Barnes — communicated to his listeners a perfect understanding of a world of his own which though full of assurance, was extremely limited.

Television/Michael Church

Friendly adventures in the Fifties

BBC drama continues as erratic as ever. This week's *Play for Today* was a porcine wallow in the land of eh-oop and oob-ay which made *Coronation Street* sound like the Shakespeare. Tim Preece's *The Combination*, in last night's Playhouse slot (BBC2), was a subtler evocation of ordinary life in the early Fifties than I have seen since those days became well and truly history.

The story, about two boys' efforts to escape the dowdiness of the provinces for the bright lights of the Festival of Britain, was vestigial. The setting was the substance: a childhood world in which toys were the product of inspired improvisation, a home shattered by a father's residual war neurosis, an early friendship shattered by grammar/sec. mod. divide. Peter Hammond's direction matched the acute observation of the script; Dorothy

Tutin, Henry Milner and Julian Davies led a strong cast.

For its first ten minutes *Fame is the Spur* (BBC1) ran like a horribly true to form. The titles rolled in the obligatory sepia haze, accompanied by the obligatory gritty yet poignant theme. An atmosphere of thrift and clean linen was established as the hero's careworn parents moved quietly about their humble abode. Upstairs the older generation was wheezing, gurgling and coughing its life out, with just time enough to pass on the political icons which would fire the hero on his trajectory through life.

Hang on, though: this was written by Elaine Morgan and directed by David Giles. Had they too been struck down by the *Wifed* and *Eileen* disease, which kills with its cloying touch? The answer proved to be no: the

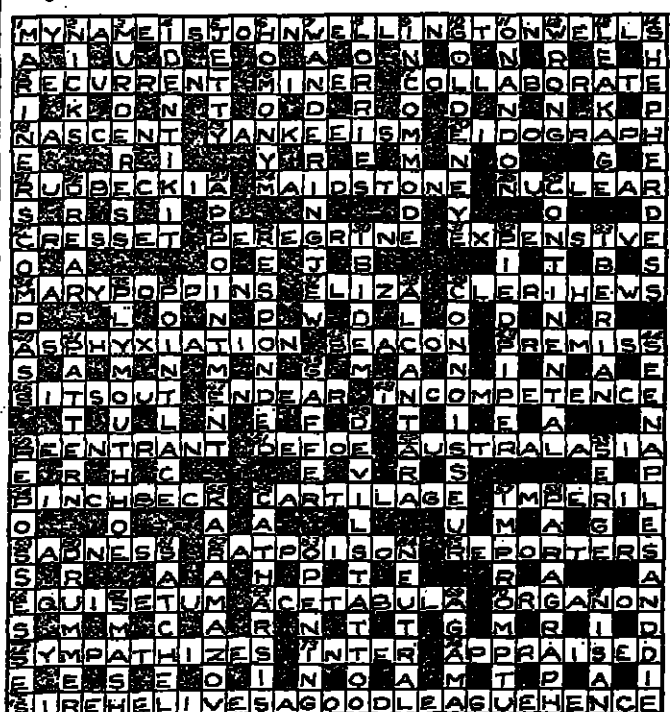
theme quickly retires to the wings and the cast, led by the admirable Tim Pigott-Smith, got on with their job, building up on the whole convincing world in which three poor Manchester lads nobly strove to better themselves.

Bizarre (ITV), billed as an "outrageous new comedy show, daring, daring, merciless" is apparently a product of American cable TV when unfettered by the prudishness of the big networks. American cable TV can indeed be outrageous, but this was anything but. Most of the limping gag involved the pulverization of living things, and in a team as seemingly talentless as *Bizarre*'s one can see the reason for their insensate rage. The canned audience whooped desperately, presumably under threat of instant pulverization if they did not.

Tim Pigott-Smith: admirable

Jumbo Crossword Solution

The winners of the Christmas Jumbo Crossword Competition are: R. G. S. Leask, Milngavie, Glasgow, P. H. Kent, East Sheen Avenue, London SW14, Mrs. J. Hutton, Staverton Road, Oxford, N. V. Pinks, Felden, Hemel Hempstead, S. C. Daneff, Welshpool, Powys, R. Sherman, Matlock, Derbyshire. They will each receive £25. The correct solution is:—



Rock/Richard Williams

Elvis at his best

Elvis Costello/RPO

Elvis Costello's rendezvous with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on Thursday seemed in prospect to be a typically 'courageous' and provocative gesture by an artist renowned for his fruitful avoidance of convention. When it was over, despite the audience's noisy raptness, one was left with very mixed feelings indeed. For all his early relationship with rock's new wave, Costello has often shown an affinity with crooners and torch songs, perhaps thereby revealing a nostalgic fondness for the music of his father, the dance-band singer Ross McManus. It was to be expected, then, that the orchestral resources would be turned in this direction, as well as towards that of his recent flirtation with country music, and so it proved.

After a first half in which he and his regular band, the Attractions, defeated the notorious acoustical deficiencies of the Albert Hall by concentrating on muted ballads (of which the new "Kid About It" and "Shabby Doll" were outstanding), the orchestral section began in a deeply distressing manner, with wholly unsuitable arrangements (by Robert Kirby, who also conducted)

grafted on to some of Costello's finest, most complex songs.

Sighing strings and comical low brass drew the sting from "Shot With His Own Gun", while prissy decorations, cancelled the dramatic effect of slowing "I Can't Stand Up" to a crawl. Ineffably banal percussive effects trivialized "Watching the Detectives" (think what Bernard Herrman, in his *Psycho* vein, might have done with this song), and there was a hilarious false start to "Sweet Dreams" caused when Kirby and the steel guitarist, John McFee — neither of whom had the ball — sold each other a dummy.

The standard improved enormously when Costello moved on to the simpler contours of the country songs (notably "A Good Year for the Roses") and to his own brilliantly plain ballad, "Alison". Clearly encouraged by these appropriately medium-rare arrangements and by the sheer musical mass, he produced the very best singing I have heard from him.

That apart, it was really nothing special, and when one considers the work with similar resources of Burt Bacharach, Mike Stoller and many others, Costello seems to have been ill-advised and poorly served. At least it may now be out of his system.



champagne is on its way. Another bottle for the funniest picture of Warrington with "Memorial to 1981". A Monumental Hash. Well said, a bottle of

ers on a postcard, please, to Peter Watson, Diary Quiz, The Times, PO Box 7, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ, to arrive not later than first post on Thursday.

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The Firebird
Candide

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Pavane
The Firebird
Candide

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The Firebird
Candide

3 & 4 Mar
Pavane
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6 & 7 Mar
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The European coach tour is now a well established feature of the holiday scene. It follows in the tradition of the Grand Tour in a way that the air-based package deal never could. This year a new name appears on the scene — LECO. The initials stand for Local European Coach Operators, a consortium of 14 firms all over Britain providing holidays from more than 250 departure points.

Its programme includes weekend breaks in Paris and Cologne and longer holidays throughout Europe, including Scandinavia. Each member inserts his own price list into the centrally produced brochure, the prices varying according to the area from which he operates. Travel agents have the brochures.

They also have the brochures of long established companies in the field, and indications are that 1982 will see very strong competition among them. Prices have been held down, either below the level of inflation or, as with the general run of holidays, actually cheaper than those in 1981. Overland, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, introduces a series of 12 touring and resort holidays in Italy, Austria, Italy, Yugoslavia, Hungary and the Soviet Union at prices from £148. Thomas Cook's new programme features nine sea and seven air-coach holidays; prices increase here have been held to an average of six per cent. The cheapest holiday is a seven-day tour of Paris, Amsterdam and Brussels from £149. Norway is one of the new areas in the programme with an eight-day air-coach tour from £294. Ellerman, like Thomas Cook, is introducing more UK pickup points into its programme, and claims that all prices are virtually the same as in 1981. The average cost is around £14 to £15 a day and the 1982 programme offers nine new tours, including a programme of five-day mini breaks to Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam and the Rhine valley. Prices for these start at £69.

A variation on the coach tour is offered by P & O, joining forces with Wallace Arnold to arrange 22 coach and cruise holidays, incorporating a voyage on the Canberra and a coach journey out to the port of embarkation or home. Most are for 14 nights, with a week at sea and a week's coach tour, although there is also a 16-night deal whose land section is a tour through the Peloponnese, Macedonia, the Alps, the Rhine valley and Belgium at fares from £561.

Several package holiday companies are looking to inland European resorts for the first time this year. Global, for example, has added lakes and mountain holidays in Austria and Switzerland to its brochure at prices from £118 for a week at Soll, halfway between Innsbruck and Salzburg, or a week in Engelberg, near Lake Lucerne.

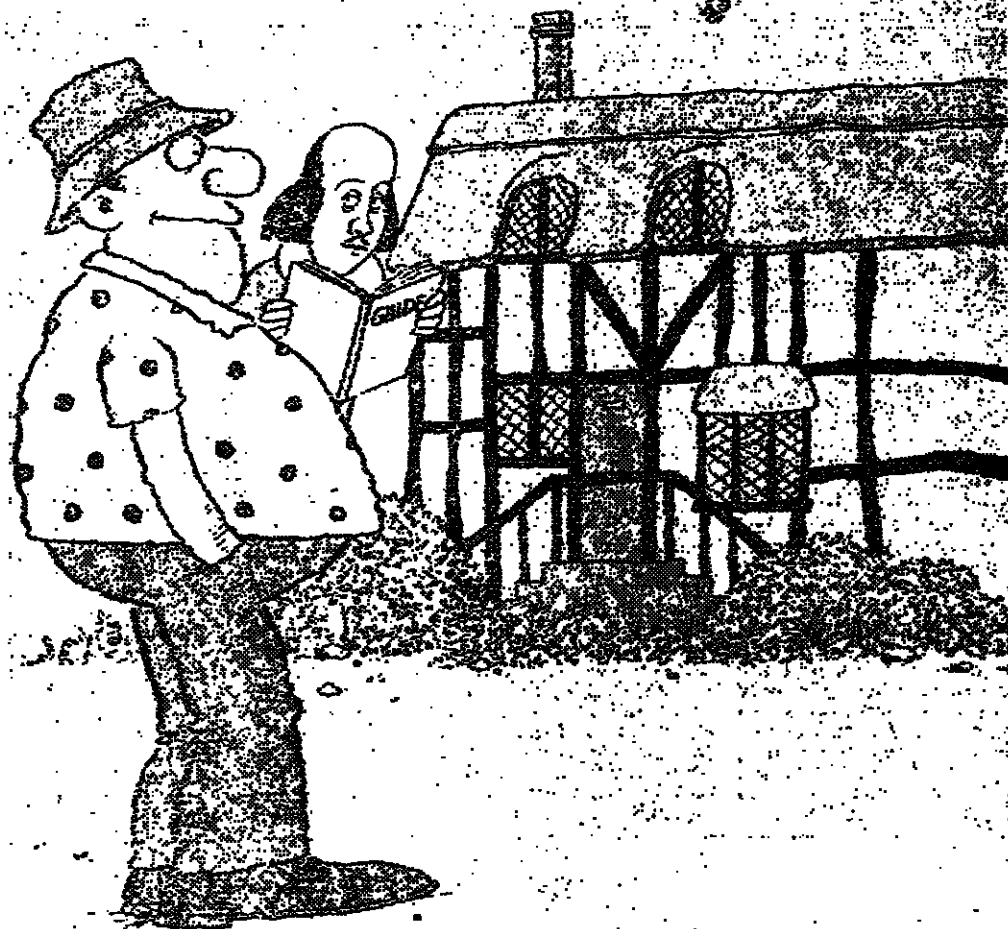
Blue Sky, who guarantee no surcharges on holidays booked before the end of this month, have introduced the Swiss resorts of Montreux, Champéry and Villars. A week is offered from £203, £160 and £185 respectively. The Italian lakeside resorts of Como and Maggiore feature from £132 for a week.

The direct sell company Portland has been prompted by the popularity of its previous lakes and mountains

Travel: Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Continental holidays/John Carter

The Grand Tour at package prices



holidays to add Switzerland to its range of destinations. Flying from Gatwick, the deals are to Interlaken, Murren and Grindelwald, all on a half board basis, from £209.

Although Switzerland is far from losing its "expensive" label, there is clearly a move to bring it within easier financial reach, and if this trend continues it should occupy more space in the "popular" brochures. P & O's "Auto Stay" programme of self-catering holidays in Europe is offering for the first time accommodation outside France — villas in Spain and a selection of self-catering properties in Germany, near the Rhine and Moselle valleys, and in the Hesse area near Frankfurt. A week can be had from £400 (see *Enlil*), that price including the return ferry fare for car and passengers Dover/Calais.

Other apartment accommodation in Germany is offered at Grunberg and Graselbach for £270 and £255 respectively.

Staying on the German scene, KD Rhine Line's programme of river cruises introduces a new bed and breakfast deal on 15-day holidays by rail, with two nights accommodation in Amsterdam and 10 days cruising, from £459. This is in addition to the regular programme of shorter cruises — three to five days and seven-day round trips. This company's cruises are featured also by Global, Union Lloyd, Switzerland Only, DEK, Southbound Tours, Air France Holidays and Anglia Holidays.

That last named company's programme is "Holland and the Rhine" with a selection of short break holidays to Amsterdam (a two-night stay from £108), Rotterdam (two nights from £107) and holidays to Assenicht and Veenburg in southern Holland as well as fly-drive arrangements. The new brochure also features Anglia's recent link-up with the Dutch company InterCruise, who also offer Rhine and Moselle cruises. At a price of £219 for a nine-day holiday, including the return air fare and full board accommodation, Anglia have high hopes for this new deal.

Sealink also offers some attractive Holland package deals, based on the Harwich/Flook service. Like a number of other operators in this field, Sealink offers specially reduced rail fares from all parts of Britain to link up with the holiday departure point. There are arrangements for self-catering bungalows, and Grouw in Friesland should particularly appeal to small boat and windsurfing enthusiasts. Accommodation is at an inland watersports area, and

a family of two adults and two children under 14 would pay a total of £215 for a week.

The ferry companies have long been promoting programmes of inclusive holidays based on their services, and self-catering is the dominant theme of these in 1982.

Tor Line has increased its self-catering capacity by 40 per cent, offering cabin villages at 12 locations in Sweden and a further six in Norway. Prices start from £89 a week, with the car going free on the ferry. Go-as-you-please motoring holidays, based on "accommodation chequebooks", are also proving popular, starting from £122 for seven nights in Sweden, £133 in Norway and £152 in Finland. As an extra incentive, Tor Holidays offers a special book of discount vouchers for many shops and attractions in Gothenburg and a full refund of Swedish VAT on anything bought during the journey,

the refunds being made during the homeward trip. Significantly, too, the company has doubled the number of its coach touring holidays, introduced last year — a nine-night tour of Sweden will cost £237 and an 11-night tour of Norway £341.

DFDS, the Danish ferry company, has linked with Tor Line but still produces its own brochure of Scandinavian holidays, one of the most popular being the tour based on Danish inns in Jutland, Funen and Zealand, with prices from only £179 for a 10-day tour with seven nights half-board accommodation ashore. Danish farm-house holidays are likely to continue their popularity. At prices which start around £104 for eight days, they represent good value for money as far as families are concerned, as do the various self-catering options — in summer houses, holiday centres and seaside chalets.

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German wine holiday/Granny rail fares/Latest discounts

Study tour/Robin Young
Back to schloss

I should by now know quite a lot about German wines, having not long ago had the chance to drink 248 of them in less than a week. It was, please believe me, a working holiday. I have a well-filled notebook to prove it was five days of serious study, and not just a protracted carouse.

The German Wine Academy, as its name implies, provides one of the most scholarly of vineyard holidays available. Others range from glorified pub crawls in the most touristically attractive wine producing areas to convivial affairs in which wine merchants show off their sources of supply to their customers.

The fact that the academy has the official support of the German wine industry does not mean that it caters only for experts. Our course, the 43rd, included a nomadic American who was there to find out why she did not like German wine; an Australian who wanted to have something to tell his wine buff friends when he got home; and a British army lieutenant whose antidote to a day's wine tasting was to slurp beer by the two-litre bootful at night.

We were based in the Romanik Hotel Schwan. It mattered little that I was in the comparatively functional annex there; we were out of the hotel by 8.30 am and seldom returned before 10 at night. The leaded windows of the old inn look out over pensive beds and lawns to the Rhine, but we had no time to walk the towpath till the last day of our stay. There was, however, a nightingale in full song every night when we returned, and the Gasthaus zur Krone in the village square kept its doors open for us.

There were few concessions to our rubber-necking inclinations. A brisk tour of Kloster Eberbach, the twelfth century Cistercian monastery which is now the academy's headquarters, was the light relief in a morning in which we learnt statistics of the German wine industry: the influence of soil, climate and grape variety on wine; and how to taste wine and keep notes of our impressions.

In each region we visited (seven of the 11 officially designated) we were treated to a representative tasting, and these were not just any wines, nor what the proprietor of the estate we were visiting cared to show us, but wines specially selected for us by a tasting committee of local growers.

No dallying in the inn-sign festooned, commercially quaint Drosselgasse in Rudesheim for us, but our tasting of the wines of Mittelrhein was conducted aboard a Rhine steamer, a glass from each pretty village we sailed past.

Similarly we were introduced to Baden wines within the walls of Heidelberg Castle, and at Cochem on the Moselle we had time for a stroll up to the town's decorative fortress before settling to a blind tasting of sparkling wines.

By then we knew just enough to upset our tutor by

voting Italian Asti Spumante and French champagne into the top places over a group of German sekts from which it was plainly hoped we should not be able to distinguish them.

At the Geisenheim research institute we were hugely entertained by the ebullient doyen of German wine, breeding and selection. I learnt the meaning of the "English copulation cut", and was glad to hear they do not use it any more.

Wherever we went we were met by the proprietor or cellar-master, who almost invariably spoke English, as did our tutors. At Schloss Johannisberg (where a Habsburg, a title of his crop) we were charged of the man whose signature has appeared on the classic vintages for the past 40 years. At Schloss Vollrads it was the young Count Matuschek, a self-proclaimed himself who told us about the new lightness in German food which so suited his drier wines, while we quietly got on with the business of digesting our gargantuan lunch of pig ribs, sauerkraut and potato.

After another hefty lunch (stuffed sow's stomach) we visited a testing station where the Germans apply their standards of quality control, with a voluntary panel of 150 tasters sipping their way through 37,000 samples a year. We were given the doubtful privilege of sampling some of the few that had failed, and of attempting to diagnose their faults.

It was a sorer test than our Friday examination, in which we generally proved that we still could not tell a Riesling from Müller-Thurgau but at least grasped the names of Germany's wine regions and the identities of their principal grapes.

So on Friday night the director of the academy, Dr Hans Ambrosi, was able to receive us in the candlelit cellars of Kloster Eberbach, and over a dinner of mountain trout, pork, ham, sausages and five wines, we were awarded a handsome diploma apiece. Then, as certified experts, we fell to the appreciation of five more "selected rarities". The last of these, I learned afterwards, with a cost of 550 Deutschmarks (£130) a bottle.

It put the price of the course, at 1,250 DM (£300) per person including all accommodation, meals, wines, lectures, tastings, visits and excursions, into rather a favourable perspective, I thought.

Travel notes: British Airways have scheduled flights to Frankfurt from £90 for a restricted tourist class return. Train connections are available to Oestrich-Winkel (change at Wiesbaden). The academy's 1982 programme and booking form, with six basic courses between May and October, is now available from Wines from Germany Information Service, 121 Wines from Germany, London W1H 3PJ. The price for 1982 is 1,350 DM (£314) per person; with a single room supplement of 95 DM (£23).

Pensioners' passes/George Speaight
Climb aboard the wagon

The facilities for half-price travel on British Rail for pensioners are well known, but it is not so widely known that similar advantages are available in many European countries for holders of the "Any Day" Senior Citizen Railcard. The regulations governing this have been changed several times in recent years, but each change seems to extend the area covered and to increase the benefits. The present situation is as follows.

Holders of the British Senior Citizen £10 Railcard can obtain a 50 per cent reduction on their rail tickets for the British section of their journey (including boat trains) and in the following countries: Belgium, Holland, France, Luxembourg, Spain and Portugal. They can obtain a 30 per cent reduction on the sea crossing by Sealink ferries or on the speed hovercraft, and on the rail network of the German Federal Republic.

An important qualification is that these reductions only apply if the ticket is bought in Britain. You cannot show a British Railcard at a European railway station. Equally, these reductions apply only to outward and return journeys along the same route. You cannot take

advantage of them for single journeys or for return by a different route.

But even with these qualifications, what attractive and economical journeys are possible! The great advantage of train travel compared with air is that one can stop off wherever one likes. The elderly may be expected to have more time for leisurely travel than they had in earlier years, even if they have less money. A visit to Paris need no longer be a weekend rush but a gentle relaxation, breaking the journey for a night to admire the superb gothic cathedrals at Amiens, by the Calais route, or at Rouen, by the Dieppe route. The senior citizen return fare to Paris at present costs £30.50.

Or a fortnight of winter sunshine on the French Riviera would cost £55.35 for the fare to Nice, but on the way there or back the unburied traveller can pause at Paris for everything that Paris offers; at Lyons (taking the new fast train), the city of Guignol, for the Musée de la Marionnette; at Orange for its superb Roman theatre; at Avignon, for the Palace of the Popes; at Arles, for the cloisters of St Trophime; at Marseilles, to dine on bouillabaisse. Stretch the journey to

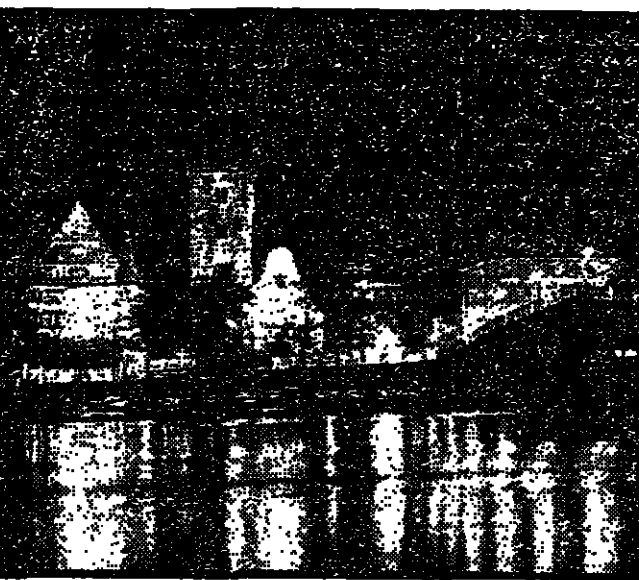
the tip of Spain or Portugal, and the savings remain at half price and the prospects of stop-overs intoxicating.

In Germany basic rail travel is more expensive than in many other European countries, but the standard of comfort and efficiency is superb, with inter-city trains leaving every important city at the same time hourly throughout the day, and a 30 per cent reduction brings the cost down to what most people would find reasonable. Again the range of stop-overs is attractive. A return ticket to Munich with a Senior Citizen Railcard costs £53.40. The journey involves at least one night if taken in one stretch, either on the Harwich-Hook steamer or the train.

Cabins and sleepers are expensive, especially if the elderly traveller craves privacy, and may cost more than a bed in a hotel, but by breaking the journey what a range of great European cities lies on the route: Brussels, Aachen and Cologne.

Then there are the wine villages along the Rhine, any of them inviting the traveller to leave the train and sip a golden Rheingau. Some of these journeys simply cry out for a return by a different route. This is not possible with the British Railcard, but it can be done by buying one of the Senior Citizen Railcards issued by various European railways. The simplest for British travellers to use is the French Carte Vernel, which can be bought in Britain for £5. This can be shown at French railway stations for a 50 per cent reduction, but not at certain busy times (and do remember to cancel your ticket before getting on the train); and it can be used for the same reduction for tickets bought in Britain, when the restrictions on days of travel do not apply.

It can be a nice calculation whether the saving justifies the cost of buying one of these national railcards, but with the exception of the French one, all become valid for journeys initiated only in the country of origin.



Night lights on the Moselle at Bernkastel-Kues, Germany.

Winter holiday discount news

Cosmos is cutting the price of all its January holidays in Portugal's Algarve region. Discounts range from £9 to £22. Prices for a one week's half-board holiday now start at £104, and the choice of hotel is left in the hands of the tour operator.

Similar deals appear in a variety of guises. Thomson calls them "square deals". Neilson coined the phrase "pricemelters", and Tjareborg has settled on "sun-savers".

Thomson "square deals" are currently being offered in a choice of 121 countries. The holiday-maker's choice of resort is governed by the destination airport selected, and winter-sports insurance is included in the price.

Current "ski superdeals" include reports from Switzerland, Austria and Italy. By choosing Zurich airport, and specifying a Swiss resort, skiers can book a one week half-board holiday for £160. Departures are from Luton mid-May. Eastern Europe and the rest of the world are covered, are Grindelwald, Wengen and Murren.

Luton and Gatwick departures for Austria via Zurich cost £145 for one week half-board in Schruns.

fare paying adults flying by Air Florida from Gatwick. For a family of four taking a two-week holiday in Miami Beach with Intasun, this offer could reduce the total cost to £709 — a saving of £197.

The wintersports version of the Thomson "square deal" is the company's "ski superdeal" scheme which produces savings on brochure prices of from £20 to £40. In this case the choice of resort as well as accommodation at a guaranteed minimum standard, or better, is left to the tour operator. The holiday-maker's choice of resort is governed by the destination airport selected, and winter-sports insurance is included in the price.

Current "ski superdeals" include reports from Switzerland, Austria and Italy. By choosing Zurich airport, and specifying a Swiss resort, skiers can book a one week half-board holiday for £160. Departures are from Luton mid-May. Eastern Europe and the rest of the world are covered, are Grindelwald, Wengen and Murren.

Tschagguns, Gaschurn, Brand or St. Anton.

The Italian version of this Thomson deal includes a ski pass in the price of the holiday — one week half-board £135, and two weeks, £199. Flights from Gatwick to Turin on January 17, 24, 31, and February 7 and 14, cover the resorts of Cervinia, Courmayeur, Claviere, Macugnaga, Saouze d'Oulx and Bardonecchia.

British Airways Enterprise Holidays offers savings of £24 to £40 on Italian ski resorts, and again, the company chooses the resort. Departures are from Gatwick on January 24 and 31. Prices are £115 for one week's half-board, and £150 for two weeks. There are also one week self-catering holidays at the company's French ski resorts for £176, a saving of £25.

Discounts on current brochure prices are also available on winter sun holidays offered by both British Airways tour operators, Sovereign and Enterprise. There are Gatwick and Manchester departures in January and February to a selection of resorts in Spain, Malta, Tunisia, Madeira, Italy and the Algarve. — S.C.P.

Destination	Nights	Company	Price	Save	Conditions
SKIING					
Murren, Switzerland	7 1/2	Supertravel	£124/134	£35	Jan 16 & 23
Zermatt, Switzerland	7 1/2	Supertravel	£144/164	£35	Jan 16 & 23
St. Anton, Austria	7 1/2	Supertravel	£144	£35	Jan 16
Courchevel, France	7 1/2	Supertravel	£169	£35	Jan 16
Meribel, France	7 1/2	Supertravel	£174	£35	Jan 16
Verbier, Switzerland	7 1/2	Supertravel	£149/159	£35	Jan 23
Tignes, France	7 1/2	Supertravel	£137	£35	Jan 23
Avoriaz, France	7 1/2	Supertravel	£159	£35	Jan 23
Verbier	7/14 1/2	Ski MacG	£159/289	£32/36	Jan 16
Val d'Isère, France	7/14 1/2	Ski MacG	£159/239	£32/45	Jan 16
Meribel	7/14 1/2	Ski MacG	£159/239	£40/69	Jan 16
Courchevel	7/14 s/c	Holiday Villas	£95/155	£24/32	Jan 16
Courchevel	7/14 s/c	Holiday Villas	£107/142	£12/16	Jan 23
Zermatt	7/14 1/2	Ski West	£157/209	£30/60	Jan 23
Zermatt	7/14 1/2	Ski West	£125/150	£30/60	Jan 16
Courmayeur, Italy	7 h/b	Thomas Cook	£149	£20	Jan 30
Azzorre, Switzerland	7 h/b	Thomas Cook	£158	£20	Jan 30, Manchester
Chassera, Italy	7/14 h/b	Global	£104/150	£30	Jan 30 & Feb 6
Avoriaz	7/14 n/b	Global	£103/199	£20	Jan 31 & Feb 7
Flaine, France	7/14 s/c	Erna Low	£115/155	£20	Feb 6
Les Arcs, France	7/14 s/c	Erna Low	£111/171	£50	Feb 6
WINTER SUN					
Malta	28 n/b	Tjareborg	£159	£85	Jan 16
Tenerife	7 h/b	Tjareborg	£146	£30	Jan 22, Manchester
Madeira	14 h/b	Tjareborg	£206	£41	Jan 20, Manchester
Malta	7 h/b	Portland	£79	£61	Jan 15, Luton
Tunisia	7/14 1/2	Portland	£115/139	£20/26	Jan 15, Luton
Tunisia	7 1/2	Portland	£115	£21	Jan 16
Malta	7 h/b	Portland	£79	£62	Jan 16
Majorca	7/14 1/2	Portland	£95/119	£19	Jan 16
Costa Blanca	7 h/b	Portland	£89	£17	Jan 17
Lanzarote	7 h/b	Thomas Cook	£213	£20	Jan 21
Majorca	7 h/b	Thomas Cook	£100	£10	Jan 23
Faro	7 h/b	Thomas Cook	£115	£15	Jan 17, Manchester
Malaga	7 h/b	Thomas Cook	£106	£15	Jan 17, Manchester
Tenerife	7/14 h/b	Global	£139/199	£45	Jan 19 & 26

Flights are from Gatwick unless otherwise stated. All discounts are calculated on current brochure prices. *May only be booked directly. Portland telephone 01-368 5111. Tjareborg 01-498 9679 and 061-238 5511.

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Shoparound

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Even the Italians, producers of some of the most adventurous modern furniture, are beginning to soften their desks. Above, a Rodica chair in rusty-brown leather, £462, with matching stool £182, at Visconti Interiors, 36 Osnaburgh Street, NW1. Left, the Sinbad chair has "horse blanket" covers which can be removed for cleaning. Chair £566, separate covers from £156, red with blue border, yellow/black, green/red, dark blue/green or grey with any border. By Cassina at Heals. Other stockists from Environment, Heath's Hall, Heath, Near Wakefield, Yorkshire, tel 0924-369446.

Time to design a revolution

Next week an exhibition opens in London called Design '82 — not, it has to be said, an entirely accurate title, as the 1,700 exhibits represent the Design Council's selections for the year that has just gone rather than a glimpse at what might be in store in the months to come.

Devoted as I am to the aims of the council, and in spite of the fact that the display includes all types of goods from photographic equipment and video to garden tools and travel goods, I can't help feeling that with such a title, a little crystal ball gazing would not have come amiss. Admittedly, short of cooping Paul Daniels on to the selection committee, they can't show what isn't there. But in addition to collecting together what has been, wouldn't it be interesting if the experts stuck out their necks and showed us the way things should be.

Last year, for instance, the council decided it could not make an award in the decorative consumer goods section. Yet that is the area which affects us all by having the most immediate impact on our surroundings. Wider appreciation of good design is more likely to be encouraged by the endorsement of a certain fabric than by that of a sectional water tank, however important that may be to our wellbeing.

In fact, the outlook for 1982, says the council, is considerably brighter. The committee considering decorative consumer goods this year is "confidently predicting" a selection of award winners in this category.

"We are at a bit of a crossroads in this country where consumer goods design is concerned," says Keith Grant, director of the Design Council. "The nostalgia boom has coloured the past decade and has made some people feel that designers have lost their way. But if what is now being produced in the colleges of



Keith Grant

design is anything to go by we are going to have the possibility of some really new and exciting trends."

Is it possible, though, to fire our manufacturing industries with enough enthusiasm to make the best use of this talent? They are not noted for quick recognition of the commercial potential of innovative design — but, to be fair, being traditionally dependent on a conservative British public for your profits does not encourage a particularly adventurous attitude.

But most manufacturers of domestic as well as industrial products should now be competing in wider European markets where good design is a major factor in all price categories and the message is coming over loud and clear from our successful exporters — design or die.

Keith Grant sees the main problem as one of education. His experience of design began in an advertising agency where he handled retail, decorative and industrial products. He then spent 11 years as general manager of the Royal Opera Company at Covent Garden, dealing with theatre designers, and became director of the Design Council in

1977 after a period as secretary of the Royal Society of Arts. But had it been left to his school and university, he says, he would have had no glimpse of what design is about or of how important it is to a country dependent on the success of its products for survival.

He therefore places great emphasis on the importance of including design as an essential rather than voluntary element of secondary education — one of the recommendations made in the Keith-Lucas Report a year ago.

Headmasters, local authorities and government have voiced approval. Mrs Thatcher has said that it is a matter of prime importance that design should be upgraded in schools. But the problem is not just one of money, but of speed. This is not the best political moment to try to convince a belt-tightened nation that investment in design is anything but pandering to the often suspect proclivities of an elitist few. Try to advance the theory that good design equals more sales equals more employment and your audience will remain sceptical and demand proof.

Keith Grant suggests that the immediate answer is to make use of the resources already there. "A lot of craft and technology is already taught in schools — home economics do related work, too. There is no reason why academic subjects like physics and maths should not be related to design, so that you get all sorts of people thinking about design at an early stage — the people who are one day going to run manufacturing industries."

"It would be unrealistic to imagine that any government can just create a new subject called 'design' overnight. What we need is fast evolution, rather than revolution."

And action rather than reaction.

Any happy mendings?

The cost of replacing anything these days is so alarming that more and more people are seeking the services of experts who can repair and renovate and make as good as new.

Next month Shoparound will include a nationwide guide to getting things mended, so if you know of anyone you consider accomplished at restoring anything from china and furnishings to baths and tools, write to Shopping Guide, Room 116, The Times, PO Box 7, 200, Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8EZ.

For the romantically reclined

Collins and Hayes are one of the few manufacturers of upholstered furniture to have survived the recession without a scar. Not only are they working to full capacity, but are planning to expand a success story which owes a great deal to their ability to compete internationally on the basis of adventurous design plus impeccable quality.

Their design director, Alan Pledge, expects furniture in 1982 to become more "romantic" with curves and soft lines modifying the stark modern look — furniture was getting too boxy, he feels. Colours will be "adventurous pastels" and woven fabrics will be moving away from the tweedy look and into flat woven cottons and velvets and chenilles.

A forerunner of their 1982 designs is the Lotus sofa shown above — a five-seater sofa with soft feather filled cushions,

curved back and pillowed arms from £772 in a range of covers from pure wool to soft hide. Also in a three-seater version from £550. To order from Harrods, John Lewis, Rackhams, Birmingham; Fenwicks, Newcastle; Kendal Milne, Manchester and Cole Bros, Sheffield.

A new departure for Collins and Hayes will be based on the American idea of using coordinating patterns of varying sizes on the same piece of furniture — large patterns for the cushions, small ones on the backs, a third on the skirt. These will be introduced in the early summer.

The American style of furnishing, indeed, is likely to be a growing influence. Waring and Gillow are among the most enthusiastic supporters of American design and will be showing several ranges of what is known in the United States as "transitional" furniture — styles that

are somewhere between the classic and the modern.

In cabinet furniture these will include cream burr veneers and in upholstery delicately coloured tapestries, matelasses and raised weaves, all with a sophistication which will appeal, says Ian Bloom, director of furniture merchandise for Waring & Gillow & Maples, to those who want something modern but not too way out.

Whatever your style, the one thing America can certainly teach us is the production of easy care fabrics. They are producing all sorts of interesting textures for upholstery which need no more than a wipe to keep clean — not ordinary fabrics treated with Scotchguard, but with a built-in easy-care protection in the fibres used. Carry on grumbling — eventually we shall get them here, too.



French flannels do furnish a room

Tricia Guild's manipulation of colour for the fabrics she uses at Designers Guild, 271 King's Road, London SW3, is always worth studying. This year her feeling is still for softly muted colours, but with slightly less sweetness than in the past year. There will be a return to fawns, beiges and creams and a repeat of the colours which for most designers spells disaster, but for Tricia have been a runaway success — deep blues and lilacs.

"There is a feeling for more formal and sophisticated designs," says Chris Halsey, Designers Guild technical director. "They will not be so obviously floral — having initiated the tiny print as long ago as 1974 we felt it was time to move away from the all-over look. We are introducing some really big-scale designs — enormous Chinese ginger jars, giant tea roses or huge overlapping maple leaves."

An interesting development by the French company Tissunique is a collection of upholstery flannels. Two are available now at Liberty's, Regent Street, London W1. For local stockists ring 01-491 3386.

small checks in five colourways called Derby. Both are in 80 per cent wool, 20 per cent polyamide, 150cm wide at around £21.85 a metre.

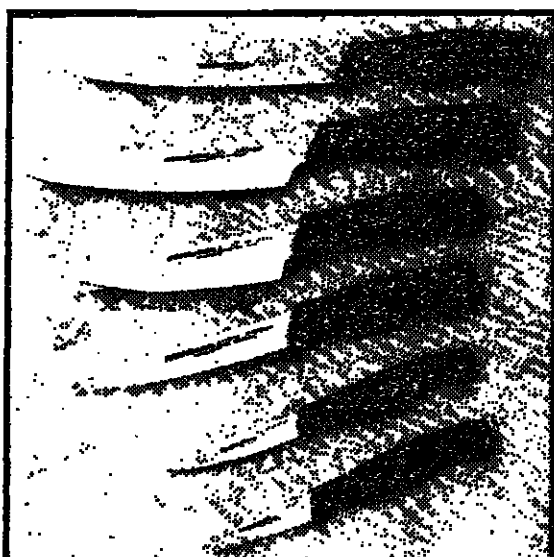
Two more are to come in late February. Cambridge will be a plain flannel, slightly lighter weight and in 49 colours — it would be ideal for making fabric wallcoverings to match with upholstery. This will also be around £21.85 a metre. Albany will be a striped flannel in four colourways at around £27.

Tissunique's latest collection also includes some delightful designs for children's rooms, including a procession of boisterous coloured geese in royal blue and yellow, salmon pink and olive or beige and brown, or an arrangement of stylized poppies with zebras nestling in their petals. Both designs are on cotton and would make amusing duvet covers with, perhaps, coordinating blinds. They are 125cm wide, about £10.

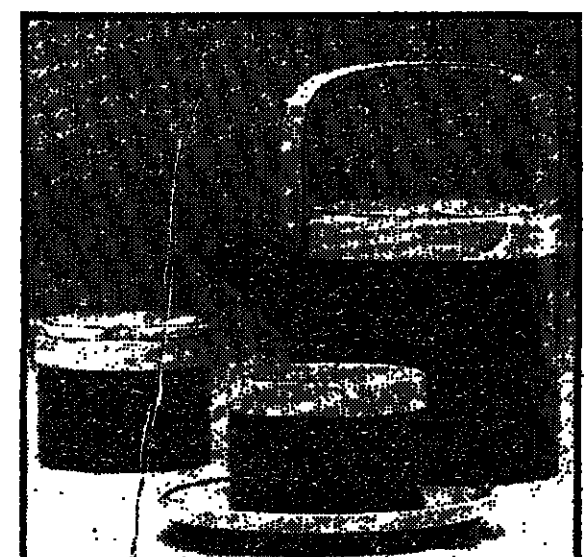
Tissunique fabrics are available at many interior design shops, as well as at Liberty's, Regent Street, London W1. For local stockists ring 01-491 3386.



Above: New large-scale printed cottons from Designers Guild — Carpet Leaf (on sofa) £11 a metre, China Pot (behind sofa) £14.50, Tea Rose (draped) £12.50. Toning irregular stripes, Streamline (on table) £9.50. All in rose, apricot, beige or blue. Above left: Zebras in Poppies — one of Tissunique's new furnishing cottons. In a mixture of white, green, red and black, £10 per metre.



A possible contender for the 1982 Design award — Kitchen Devils' new range of knives designed by Robert Welch. Perfectly balanced, with handles moulded onto the blades to make them hygienic and dishwasher proof, Kitchen Devils' Professional cost from £3.45 for the 2 1/4 in paring knife to £9 for the 8 1/4 in carver from Selfridges, W1.



One of the 1,700 products selected by the Design Centre last year and shown in their Design '82 exhibition at 28 Haymarket, SW1, from January 13 to February 27. Coffee pot £12.75, sugar bowl £2.50, coffee cup £1.80, saucer £1. Called Cinnamon by Horne's Pottery in rust and cream, available in the Design Centre shop.

The Times cook/Shona Crawford Poole

Smooth fish dishes

The trouble with a good cliché, of the culinary kind anyway, is that it is so damned useful. Look at smoked fish pate — it is such an agreeably ideal first course that one meets little pots of the stuff all over the place.

No doubt this sort of popularity is inevitable when a widely liked taste coincides so neatly with simple preparation, modest cost and no last minute fuss. It is predictability that dampens interest, so this week's text is "variations on the cliché".

Real smoked haddock, (the kind sold only on the bone, and which looks very pale beside brightly dyed golden fillers), makes a marvellous terrine. Layers of light smoked haddock mouseline are interspersed with prawns so that the cooked terrine cuts into beguilingly striped slices.

The smoked salmon mousse makes the most of offcuts which are much less pricey than perfect, wafer thin slices. These trimmings are often sold in freezer packs. Although light textured, this mousse is rich and very satisfying, so serve small quantities. It can be offered in individual dishes with toast, or wrapped, parcel fashion, in slices of smoked salmon and accompanied by a few leaves of crisp salad.

Smoked haddock and prawn terrine

Serves 10 to 12

- 55 g (2 oz) butter
- 300 ml (1/2 pint) milk
- 85 g (3 oz) plain flour
- 1/2 teaspoon white pepper
- 2 large eggs, separated
- 450 g (1 lb) smoked haddock, freed of skin and bones
- 450 ml (3/4 pint) double cream, chilled
- Salt to taste
- 225 g (8 oz) peeled prawns

Put the butter in a small saucepan with the milk and heat until the butter has melted. Bring the mixture to the boil, then set it aside to cool a little.

Sift the flour and pepper into a bowl. Make a well in the centre. Gradually stir in the hot milk. Transfer the mixture to the pan and whisk on a low heat until it thickens. Continue cooking it gently, beating now with a wooden spoon, until the mixture leaves the sides of the pan. Set this pan aside to cool.

Chop the raw smoked haddock into large dice and puree it in a food processor, or with a pestle and mortar. Work in the egg whites, a little at a time, then the

panada. Rub the mixture through a sieve. Cover the bowl and chill it very thoroughly. The traditional way of chilling the puree, which is a necessary process if it is to take up enough cream to make a really light mouseline, is to set the bowl in a larger bowl of crushed ice, and then put everything in the fridge.

When the fish mixture is thoroughly chilled, work in the cream, a little at a time, first with a wooden spoon, then as the mixture loosens, with a whisk. Add salt to taste. Keep the mixture, which is now a panada mouseline, well chilled throughout this process. If either the weather or the kitchen is very warm, add the cream in three or four stages, returning the mouseline to the fridge between additions.

Butter a terrine of about 1.25 litres (2 1/2 pint) capacity, and spread a third of the fish mouseline evenly over the base. Top with half the prawns followed by half the remaining mouseline. Add the remaining prawns and finally the rest of the mouseline.

Cover the terrine with buttered foil, or its lid, and set it in a larger dish. Transfer both to a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) and pour boiling water into the larger dish,

ideally to come two thirds of the way up the sides of the terrine. Bake the terrine for 1 1/2 hours.

Remove the terrine from the water bath and leave it to cool. Refrigerate it overnight before serving.

This terrine does freeze successfully, but it should only be frozen if the prawns used were fresh.

- Smoked salmon mousse
- Serves six to eight
- 170g (6 oz) smoked salmon trimmings
- 1 teaspoon gelatine
- 4 tablespoons water
- 175 ml (6 fl oz) double cream
- 1 tablespoon cognac
- 1 tablespoon dry sherry
- Salt and cayenne pepper to taste

Puree the salmon in a food processor or by pounding it in a pestle and mortar. Sprinkle the gelatine on the water and when it has swollen, heat gently until the granules have dissolved completely. Stir the gelatine into the salmon puree.

Whip the cream until it holds soft peaks and fold it into the puree. Stir in the cognac and sherry and season the mixture to taste with salt and cayenne. Spoon it into individual serving dishes, or one large dish, and chill to set.

Book tokens enable wine lovers to add something special to their library. Here are three new, rather unusual books of interest, which might be studied with a glass of something appropriate at the elbow. (Possibly deprecating the while that those whose business is fine food and wines seldom get much encouragement by way of "honours" in the UK.)

The ponderous and lavishly illustrated second edition of *André Simon's Wines of the World*, by Serena Sutcliffe (Macdonald, £17.50) is misleadingly titled: it might have been better to study wine lovers to explain who André was, instead of giving much space to unexciting, sometimes awkwardly phrased articles and statistics, not always up to date. A curate's egg of a book, certainly to be bought if you already have some reference works, but not likely to make anyone begin to love wine.

As some freshening up during perusal might seem desirable, an agreeably named *Wine and Rhine Riesling*, from R. G. and R. T. Trott in South Australia would be ideal. The 1979 has a light, penetrating bouquet, is slightly lively on the palate, opening to a full, almost "chewy" flavour. Associations with Tigger being inevitable, it is also fair to say it has plenty of bounce

and, in sampling, remained well-balanced and charming even the day after it was first opened.

A superficial impression might be that this *Wine and Rhine Riesling* is Australia's answer to vinho verde, but it is subtler and more gracious. (£4.45 from Dolamore, 16 Paddington Green, W2, and their other branches in London, Oxford, Cambridge and Bakewell).

Even the person who "has everything" relating to wine is unlikely to have anything similar to Corkscrews for Collectors by Bernard M. Watney and Homer D. Babidge (Sotheby Parke Bernet, £12.95) as this is the first book on the subject. A fine production, beautifully set out, illustrated in colour as well as black and white, it deals with the corkscrews of the world and, while making many regret that they ever threw out the now valuable relics of their grandparents, encourages them to buy all new examples.

To complement this, why not a dry Marsala? It's a revelation to anybody who has only known the cheap sweet and often flavoured versions used for making zabaglione. The slightly bitter inner taste, bestowed by Sicily's volcanic vineyards, plus the spicy aroma and gently warming aftertaste makes one understand the popularity of the drink,

created for Britons by Britons. In the cruel Christmas cold, several friends found it a perfect drink in the early evening, accompanied by a slice of sponge cake, as did our ancestors in the pre-cocktail epoch.

The Marsala Secco, Vecchia Riserva 1880 (the date when the wine's solera was established) of Pellegrino is the sort of fine wine that Nelson, who ordered quantities of Marsala for the Mediterranean fleet, would have enjoyed. (£4.98 from Stonehaven Wines, Grayshot Road, Healdy Down, Bordon, Hants.)

The drink that nineteenth century visitors to lawyer or bank manager might have been offered — also with a slice of cake — was Madeira. Indeed, the accompanying sponge moist enough to remain fresh over several days) probably took its name from the wine rather than the other way about. Madeira is easygoing and doesn't deteriorate if kept in a cupboard, opened, for some days; nor does cigarette smoke overwhelm its bouquet. Cagney Gordon, older of Madeira Houses, made a 1981 Royal Wedding special reserve "Very Old Bual" which has been in wood for a quarter of a century.

Note the odd "greenery-gallery" edge to the colour,

the slightly charred, tantalizing aroma and the added and delectable freshness of the high vineyards in the beautiful island, endowing the wine with notes of apple mint and citrus. Sniff the empty glass — and that of the dry Marsala — to enjoy the lingering, concentrated smell. This is not an obviously sweet wine, although it is a rich one, and would be a fine conclusion to a meal along with the dessert and nuts. (£2.95 from Lay & Wheeler, Culver Street, Colchester, their other shops in Colchester, also in Keddies in Southend, Romford and Colchester.)

Lay & Wheeler's latest wine list is a front runner for the most handsome and comprehensive of recent times, but it must yield for elegance to Christie's Wine Companion (£9.50 or, by post, £10.50 from Christie's Wine Publications, 8 King St., St James', SW1). The articles vary from providing valuable information, recounting fascinating experiences and witty comments on many aspects of wine and the illustrations are delicious. Even if I were not a contributor, this would have been my first choice for a book that delights the eye as well as pleasing the intelligence, or to give to anyone not yet aware of how much fun the study of wine can be.

Drink/Pamela Vandyke Price

Information to imbibe

§ Forward margins are permitted on two previous days.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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Unit trust competition, page 18

Business News

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Protection for no claims bonus, page 19

Gill set to sue ACC over payoff

By Philip Robinson
Mr Jack Gill, dismissed managing director of Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation, is considering suing ACC for damages even though it could mean him getting less than the £560,000 cash golden handshake which has caused a storm of protest in the City.

It is understood that under an agreement between ACC and Mr Gill, drawn up shortly after his sudden departure last September after 23 years service, a shareholders' meeting to approve the deal should have been held last Friday and the money released by now. The meeting was held yesterday, and adjourned for a week without voting on the payout.

Sir David Napley, Mr Gill's lawyer, said last night: "The shareholders' approval should have been given by now. ACC are in breach of their agreement with Mr Gill and I will be considering over the weekend whether to institute proceedings on Monday against ACC for damages."

Sir David said that Mr Gill did not wish to leave ACC voluntarily he left under an agreement which gave him £560,000 for loss of office and that had now been breached. Any action taken by Mr Gill against ACC could mean him being awarded less than that which is being proposed at present.

Any action by Mr Gill would not be inconsistent with the legal action being taken by a number of ACCs non-voting shareholders led by the Post Office Pension Fund to stop the payment.

The hearing of the Post Office petition, now backed by ten other City institutions, is due before Mr Justice Slade on Monday morning. It is thought likely that the petition hearing will be adjourned until February, but that the court will grant an interim injunction preventing any money being paid to Mr Gill until the full case has been heard.

ACC's special shareholders meeting sought to approve the £560,000 payment and the option for Mr Gill to buy the company house in which he lived for £100,000 less than its valuation.

Lord Grade who was chairman at the packed meeting of voting and non-voting shareholders at the group's west London headquarters, said the meeting adjourned because the Post Office Pension fund is asking the court to quash any resolution passed at the meeting.

This followed an undertaking given on Thursday by ACC to the Post Office group that no payment would be made to Mr Gill.

Mr Ralph Quartano, chief executive of the Post Office pension fund said after the meeting: "We will take this action to the very end. We do not enter into actions lightly and once one enters one does not withdraw lightly."

"We shall be asking for all the background to Mr Gill's resignation. The company has said the payment is substantially in excess of what a court would award."

Investors to pay more to brokers

By Paul Maidment
Private investors on the Stock Exchange will have to pay higher charges because of new scales for stock brokers' commissions announced yesterday. This will mean an average rise of 1.3 per cent in brokers' income, though there will be little change for institutions through a concession on gilts switching.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, the council's chairman, who presented the Exchange's first big review of commission charges since the last adjustment in 1976, said there would be an increase in commission charges on small transactions while commissions on larger transactions would remain broadly the same. The main concession would be on gilt switching.

The minimum charge proposed rises to £10, against £7 at present. The fee on share transactions between £2,000 and £7,000 would rise from 1.5 per cent to 1.75 per cent, an increase of 16.7 per cent.

At the other end of the scale, the rate on transactions over £3m remains unchanged at 0.17 per cent.

The new commission rates are a sensitive subject for brokers who rely almost entirely on fees for their income.

Sir Nicholas said that they would be debated through the exchanges' Liaison Committee, on which sit the chairman of the market's various trade associations.

Under the proposed scales, brokers' revenue from gilts is expected to drop by an average of 5 per cent while that from equities is expected to increase by almost 13 per cent.

The new scales also reflect the increasing volume of business in the exchange in government securities.

The review shows that the turnover in equities has risen over the three years to February 1981 from £61m to £102m, while gilts rose from £21m to £51m.

In real terms, turnover in gilts rose by 21 per cent, against a fall of 18 per cent for equities.

Government waives Invergordon loan

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor
Repayment of Government loan to British Aluminium totalling £21.2m has been waived by the Department of Industry under the deal which led to the company's controversial decision to close its Scottish smelting plant at Invergordon in the Highlands.

This was disclosed yesterday when the company gave further details of the financial arrangements agreed with the Government and with Scottish electricity supply agencies.

Acquiescence over the closure continues and the shadow Scottish Secretary, Mr Bruce Millan, Labour MP for Clackmannan and Perth, has pledged that the Opposition will continue to fight for the 900 jobs that will be lost.

British Aluminium originally said it would provide further information in March when the company, which is 58 per cent owned by Tube Investments, publishes its annual report and accounts.

When the closure was announced at the end of last month the company provided only a brief summary of the financial arrangements hammered out in talks with the Treasury, the Department of Industry and the North of Scotland Hydro Electricity Board.

Yesterday's statement was published less than 24 hours after a meeting in London between Mr Ronald Usher, chairman of British Aluminium, and Mr Alex Fletcher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office. After the meeting both men said there was no basis for the company to continue to operate the smelter.

In its statement the company said that when the power contract with the hydro-electricity board was ended which provided for power to be supplied from the board's Hunterston 'B' station until the end of this century, British Aluminium had "returned" its share of the capacity of the station to the Scottish electricity boards.

The company said it was entitled to the residual value of these rights which had been agreed at £79.3m. From this sum £47m has been deducted, reflecting the value of disputed power charges pending at the time of the closure decision.

Morton to lead Guinness Peat

By Sally White

The row at Guinness Peat appears to be over. The board has announced that the Mr Edmund Dell is stepping down as chief executive in favour of Mr Alastair Morton, the former British National Oil Corporation chief. The indications are that this solution is acceptable to Lord Kissin, who will now drop his plans for a partial bid for the group.



Mr Alastair Morton: acceptable solution

Mr Dell is to remain as chairman of Guinness Peat, the banking commodity and industrial group which is expected to announce a very dry first half profit figures next month. The news came out after the Stock Market had closed, but the shares dropped 3p to 90p during the day.

Mr Morton said last night that he is to see Lord Kissin this weekend. He has been authorized by the board to "settle Lord Kissin's future relationship with the group."

The row has been building up for more than a year, and Lord Kissin has been pushing hard for Mr Dell's removal from the steering role in the group. He disliked the strategy of selling off parts of the group — stakes in Linford, Esperanza and Greycoat Properties — to raise cash. Group central borrowings are not anywhere near the £120m rumoured. They are nearer to half that, but they had been growing.

Mr Morton said last night that he "would very much like to be able to continue to call on Lord Kissin as a consultant."

"The board would certainly like him to continue to be president."

As to his plans for the future development of Guinness Peat, there seems to be no chance at the moment for any bidders for Guinness Mahon, or any other parts of the group. Mr Morton says he is a man "who likes to build things up."

No subsidiaries will be sold unless he considers it to be absolutely necessary.

A Bank of England nominee for the role of chief executive Mr Morton — a South African by birth is, 44 on Monday, and has spent most of his working life helping to reconstruct parts of British industry.

He left BNOG last year when Mr Philip Sheelbourne was appointed to the top job. The two men had previously worked at the Drayton Group and had been known to have had many disagreements.

UK role blamed by De Lorean

Mr John De Lorean, head of the Belfast car company which bears his name, yesterday put part of the blame for the failure of his company's Wall Street flotation on the British Government, which has ploughed £80m into the firm.

Mr De Lorean's plans to raise £6.2m by selling a million shares of the De Lorean Motor Company were postponed on Wednesday because of adverse market conditions.

"The company wants the cash for the development of a sedan version of the gull-winged sports car. It now says that if it does not get an immediate £26m export guarantee from the British Government production of the cars will have to be cut."

Mr De Lorean says the group needs more working capital and has begun talks with unnamed prospective buyers to sell or merge the car group to give it financial stability.

He said of the offer: "We missed the window in time. The (British) Government insisted on being involved with the public offering and that delayed it by two and a half months."

"We started preparing the offer last June and there was a time in July and August when it could have succeeded, but we could not get the agreement completed and we missed the boat. We told them this would happen."

Most of the talks with the British Government about the offer were with the Northern Ireland Development Agency. Mr De Lorean added: "I sent a number of wires, probably six, to various people saying there was a good chance the offering would not succeed unless we proceeded quickly."

He disclosed that sales of the car had been seriously affected by bad publicity surrounding allegations of financial irregularities made by a former employee last year, even though they were later disproved.

"The allegations were front-page news," he said. "The exoneration was page 99 news." The affair had contributed to Wall Street's rebuff.

Mr De Lorean wants to hand over the company for what he called a "nominal price" with a tax-free exchange and the prospect of good future earnings.

End of year boost for car sales

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent
An end of year revival in car sales in the United Kingdom has boosted the total 1981 market to 1,484,622, a drop of only 1.9 per cent on 1980.

Figures for the year from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that sales in December rose for the third consecutive month, compared with a year ago. December's total of 56,330 new car sales was up by 10.5 per cent on December 1980.

The Society believes that the impact of recession on car sales is dwindling and this year's market will be between 1.52 million and 1.55 million.

British car manufacturers managed to stem the flow of imports last year and captured a slightly improved share of sales at 44.3 per cent. The importers' share dropped from 56.7 per cent in 1980 to 55.7 per cent.

Of the 826,533 foreign cars sold in the UK in 1981, 10.99 per cent were Japanese, a figure in line with the voluntary restraint agreement operated in the UK by Japan's car makers.

The most popular car in 1981 was predictably, the Ford Cortina, still bought mostly by companies, with sales of 159,804. Second was the Ford Escort with the main battle being fought for third place between the Ford Fiesta and the Metro.

The company said its figures show that the Fiesta, with 110,753 sales, scored a narrow victory over the Metro's 110,283.

BL is to raise the price of its Rover and Morris Ital ranges by about 4% from Monday.

Doubts over Siberia pipeline

By Our Industrial Staff
Concern over the future of the planned Siberian natural gas pipeline to Europe increased yesterday after confirmation that the United States had blocked exports of components by General Electric.

But European companies using General Electric components in the equipment they are supplying for the pipeline, appear to have been told that the company intends to continue to produce parts for the project.

Export licences are no longer being issued by the US commerce department because of economic sanctions against the Soviet Union in response to the imposition of martial law in Poland.

General Electric was supplying compressor turbine parts to a subsidiary of AEG-Telefunken of West Germany, John Brown of Britain, and Nuoro Pignone, of Italy. The three contracts are valued at about \$175m (£92m).

John Brown is building 21 of the 125 gas turbines ordered by the Soviet Union for 41 compressor stations on the pipeline.

The British company said it understood that General Electric had not stopped production. Construction of the turbines was continuing. Only General Electric parts could be used in the John Brown turbines.

France will resume negotiations with the Soviet Union to purchase Siberian gas despite its concern over Poland. A delegation from Soyuzgas Export is due to meet Gaz de France, the French gas utility in Paris on January 18 to discuss the purchase of 8,000 million cubic metres a year of additional gas.

The French Government does not believe that the purchase will create any dangerous dependence on the Soviet Union.

BAe sell-off nets department £43m

By Our Industrial Correspondent
The Department of Industry secured net receipts of just £42.9m from the £149m sale to the public of shares in British Aerospace last year.

This is disclosed in the latest appropriation accounts report from Mr Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General. As a result of the sale, which raised £148,568,034 gross, the Government holds 48.43 per cent of British Aerospace shares worth £184m at a stock market valuation last November.

Gross receipts were reduced after the department, acting on merchant bank advice, subscribed for £100m of shares in a bid to raise the company's financial resources.

In addition, the report shows that the department paid sales expenses of £5.6m, much of it in underwriting commissions. The underwriting was completed by Kleinwort, Benson, issuing house for the shares.

Underwriting commissions of 1 1/4 per cent of the total offer price were £2,625m with the leading underwriters receiving £230,000 for advising the department and managing the issue.

Mr Downey asked whether there was a conflict between the merchant bank's responsibilities for advising on the offer price and underwriting the issue but the department said this was normal practice because a similar depth of familiarity with a company's business was necessary in both roles.

The department said it considered a public offer of shares to be the best way to ensure a fair price.

ANTI-TRUST ACTION DROPPED

From Frank Lipsius, New York, Jan 8
The United States Government has dropped its long and costly anti-trust suit against the American Telephone & Telegraph Company, the world's largest non-government corporation.

The Administration has been seeking to break up the company since 1974, accusing it of monopolizing the telecommunications industry.

The case went to court in Washington last year but the Justice Department has now withdrawn the case and the company has been in negotiation.

The Justice Department said that the company would now undertake an 18-month reorganization and divest itself of its local telephone subsidiaries.

The company will continue to own a nationwide inter-city network composed of the long distance services and the inter-city facilities of the local operating companies.

John De Lorean: 'We missed the boat'

when it could have succeeded, but we could not get the agreement completed and we missed the boat. We told them this would happen."

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Stock Markets

FT Index 531.4 up 1.9
FT Gilts 62.24 up 0.27
FT All Share 310.09 up 0.94
Bargains 16,037

Sterling

\$1.9190 down 0.15
Index 91.8 up 0.1

Dollar

Index 107.3 down 0.3
DM 2.2590 down 42 pts

Gold

\$400.50 up \$3.80

Money

3 mth sterling 15 1/4-15 3/4
3 mth Euro \$13 1/4-13 1/2
6 mth Euro \$14 1/4-14 1/2

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Amstrad	20p to 215p
Barratt Devs	6p to 217p
Bestobell	8p to 351p
Brix Home Stirs	8p to 129p
Castlefield	30p to 430p
De Beers Dfd	29p to 352p
Devenish	10p to 283p
Glaxo Hlids	12p to 434p
Git Univ Stores	8p to 456p
Grippenwoods	14p to 250p
Harris Qmway	6p to 134p
Hickson Welch	8p to 218p
Horizon Travel	8p to 293p
Pleasurama	12p to 320p
Unilever	6p to 611p

Falls

Avail	5p to 120p
Chesterfield	5p to 345p
Gas & Oil Acro	5p to 410p
Hoover	7p to 88p
Polly Peck	10p to 265p
Rosehaugh	10p to 165p
Royal Worts	6p to 209p
Rustenburg	5p to 185p
SA Land	5p to 380p
Sotheby PB	10p to 445p
Thorn EMILip	5p to 205p
Unitech	5p to 568p
Utd Scientific	17p to 408p
Venturepost	5p to 230p
Western Mining	5p to 230p

Industrial laws plea

Any legislative moves to impose industrial democracy on companies to improve the Government's reelection prospects should be resisted, the Institute of Directors says in a letter to the Prime Minister (Peter Hill writes).

Mr Walter Goldsmith the institute's director general, one of the Prime Minister's most ardent supporters refers to recent suggestions for laws to impose industrial democracy or to put workers on company boards to help industry or improve the Government's General Election chances. The suggestions, he said, were misconceived.

"The electorate would quickly see through any pale imitation of left-wing industrial democracy proposals, especially if in practice they were to mean trade union nominees sitting on company boards," Mr Goldsmith says.

Instead, the Government should take the cutting of income tax and appropriate pay rises for workers in companies where productivity and profitability have shown increases as its theme.

Truman the brewer is to make 80 workers redundant at its bottling plant at West Bergholt, Essex. The cuts are blamed on the recession and falling sales of bottled beer.

Trusthouse Forte has bought 95 per cent of Madrid's Ritz Hotel for £1.2m. Mr Enrique Maso the previous owner will receive one million shares from THF.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Sit-in cost 600 jobs

More than 400 workers who occupied the Dunlop factory in Brynmawr, South Wales, to gain assurances over their future were told yesterday that the plant will close permanently because of their action. They and another 200 will lose their jobs.

The sit-in started four weeks ago after the company told workers that 60 jobs would have to go at the plant, which produces tiles for George Howard, a transport union official whose members led the action, said the company had also been seeking another 200 redundancies.

"We had already suffered scores of redundancies and had cooperated in efforts to make the plant pay," he said.

"We wanted to know the company's plans for the future so that we could have proper talks with them. This was not a strike about money."

The factory was occupied overnight and local people took in turkey and other food.

Dunlop said the plant had lost £6m in five years. The strike had damaged the division, which had been suffering from difficult trading conditions and there was no alternative to closure.

Ship terminal loses line

The future of Greenock's container terminal, which employs more than 300 people has been put in doubt by the announcement that one of the two lines at the terminal is pulling out.

The last Carol Lines Services ship will call at Greenock to unload on January 22. The service will be transferred to the English port of Felixstowe.

The line accounted for more than 20 per cent of the container terminal's throughput last year when about 10,000 boxes were delivered by Carol Line Vessels, mainly from the Caribbean.

The company said: "the service we have received at Greenock is second to none in Europe."

Because of the cost of inland haulage and the fuel cost of steaming to the Clyde, however, we have reluctantly transferred our service."

Fear for Zimbabwe earnings

Zimbabwe stands to lose more than \$50m (£35m) in foreign exchange earnings, affecting about 7,000 jobs, if a trade agreement with neighbouring South Africa is not replaced, according to a report prepared at the request of the Zimbabwe Government.

The effect on Zimbabwe's industries would be severe if some form of trade agreement is not concluded, the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries said.

9.5m in US out of work

Unemployment in the United States rose to 9.5 million or 8.9 per cent of the work force in December.

The adjusted figure was second only since the Second World War to 9 per cent in May 1975.

Last month's figures compared with unemployment rates of 9 million or 8.4 per cent in November and 8 per cent in October.

The number of jobless increased 5.1 per cent or 458,000 in December after rising 5.7 per cent or 484,000 in November.

Racial warning on Navigator

Racial has threatened to take legal action against distributors and users of any non-Decca receivers which have been made to use with the Decca Navigator system.

The company's copyright is believed to have been breached by the sale of equipment made in the United States and Japan.

Yesterday the company warned that it will assert its rights to prevent anyone using such equipment in with Decca Navigator systems.

Homes increase

There were 42,800 housing starts in the three months to November, a 3 per cent increase on the previous quarter, and 18 per cent more than the same period last year, according to the latest Department of the Environment figures. In November work started on 13,800 homes, 2,400 more than the same month a year ago.

Club sale completed

Playboy Enterprises announced last night that the sale of the Playboy Club of London and its subsidiaries has been completed with Trident Television.

There is still doubt over whether Admiral Sir John Trenchard, brought in last year to replace the flamboyant Mr Victor Lowman to run the London casino, will depart as part of the deal.

Trident made no statement on Sir John's position.

Tunnel plea

Channel Tunnel Developments (1981), a consortium made up of Wimpey and Tarmac, has called on the Government to "be bold and draw up a short list of three" from the eight contenders for the contract to build the tunnel. The contenders also include British Rail and British Steel. The consortium believe time and money could be saved with a short list.

More new companies

A total of 6,437 new businesses were formed in the United Kingdom last November, a rise of 1.5 per cent on the total for October and an increase of 20 per cent compared with November 1980, according to figures released yesterday by British Business the magazine of the Departments of Trade and Industry.

Bankers are still hoping for an early agreement on rescheduling Poland's \$2,400m debt repayments due last year. But they did not continue Thursday's meeting yesterday as had been expected.

Third World faces rising bank fees

Borrowers from the World Bank face higher interest charges if discussions within the bank lead to it making floating rate loans instead of the traditional fixed rate loans. Most of the bank's customers are developing countries.

Mr Tom Clausen, the World Bank President, said yesterday: "Today's volatile market conditions are forcing us to consider whether we should introduce a degree of variability into our lending rates, as well as whether we should tap the more plentiful short term market."

But the move would also have profound implications for the Euromarkets, on which the World Bank is one of the biggest borrowers, and by which it is regarded as being almost free of risk.

The move comes because of the difficulty of raising money in contemporary circumstances of interest rate volatility.

After borrowing \$4,160m in the six months to the end of December, the bank needs to raise another \$4,000m to meet its loan commitments for the financial year to June 30. It expects, moreover, to need \$9,000m in 1982-3 and perhaps \$10,000m in the following year.

Third World customers were told this week that they will have to pay a front-end fee of 1.5 per cent on new loans.

The measure was designed to offset a possible income medium-term fall caused by interest and exchange rate fluctuations.

Mr Clausen also told borrowers that the bank is studying ways in which loans could be repaid faster. He admitted that such combined changes would make it more difficult for some countries to borrow at the present fixed rates which are below the market. Only the poorest countries will still enjoy interest-free credit.

The bank claims that none of its borrowers has ever defaulted, but the aid institution has attracted criticism from America, its biggest shareholder, where it is argued that some countries pursue policies contrary to American interests.

President Reagan's Administration has delayed part of its contribution to the International Development Association, an arm of the bank which makes long term interest-free loans.

Washington believes that private banks should participate in World Bank lending. The bank is examining the legality of joint loans with American insurance companies and pension funds.

The bank's loan commitments have coincided with increased political pressure and highly volatile money markets. The Euromarkets in particular were thrown into confusion by soaring interest rates.

after a fall in American interest rates over the past few weeks there are renewed fears among bankers that a large United States Federal government deficit coupled with a tight money policy could impart another upward twist to the interest rate spiral.

Central bank governors will discuss this problem at the monthly meeting

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Insurance

Women take action to earn equal benefits

The Prudential, the country's largest insurance company has been forced to stop discriminating against women over permanent health insurance benefits following a court case in London yesterday. Mrs Valerie Turner, a 40 year old company secretary from Sheffield took the Pru To court, with the backing of the Equal Opportunities Commission, when she discovered that its Personal Protection Policy gave women claimants only £6 a week benefit for each £1,000 of income insured while men paying the same premiums picked up £10.

"I took action because I thought this was unfair. I have several other policies with the Prudential. I hope this encourages other women to fight for equal treatment," Mrs Turner commented after the hearing.

The Prudential has agreed to pay £500 damages and a further £300 costs. It has given an undertaking that all future claims under the policy would treat women in the same way as men — paying them the full £10.

But while this is good news for the 1,000 women policy holders covered by the plan it is a pyrrhic victory for the Equal Opportunities Commission, which is still itching to get a full dress test case on permanent health policies into the courts.

The Man from the Pru is no gentleman. The company has already withdrawn the offending policy from the market. In its place there is a new contract which charges female policyholders a third more for the same amount of benefit.



Mrs Valerie Taylor

Virtually every insurance company loads the premiums for women on these type of policies. If Mrs Turner now wants to buy one she will like the rest of us, have to pay anything between a quarter and a half more than a man of the same age and category. The insurance companies say women have a worse health record than men. Therefore, they claim, they have good reason to charge higher premiums.

The Sex Discrimination Act allows discrimination if there is a good reason for it. But the Equal Opportunities Commission, in common with other organizations, is challenging this assumption. "We would very much like to see their reasons demonstrated in a court of law," says EOC spokesperson Dai Trembath. But the insurance companies have so far shown a marked reluctance for a full frontal fight. The Prudential gave in.

Another case backed by the EOC — that of Mrs June Almeida against the Legal & General looks as if it, too, will be settled out of court. Mrs Almeida took action when she discovered that her company permanent health scheme excluded "ailments peculiar to the female sex."

Most of the insurance companies, in addition to charging higher premiums for women, exclude pregnancy or pregnancy-related illness in their policies or add extra time to the deferment period before a claim can be made. The British Insurance Brokers Association is currently conducting a survey. BIBA's Kay Forster said yesterday "We believe a case for differential premiums for female policyholders has not been properly made out — further research is required."

The Institute of Actuaries, which has collated the claims experience of a number of insurance companies will publish its own 10-year analysis of the situation later this year.

An officer of the Prudential admitted yesterday "one reason why women seem to spend more time away from work could be that their jobs are more boring."

It is high time these claims and counter claims were aired in court. Then we will all discover the answer to a puzzling question. If women are supposed to be so unhealthy how is it that they are expected to live, on average, seven years longer than a man?

Margaret Drummond

House purchase Benefiting people who pay more tax

A new housepurchase scheme put together by Leamington Spa Building Society and Scottish Provident offers considerable savings for self-employed people who pay higher rates of tax.

Instead of using the more usual "endowment" linked method where a with-profits life policy is used as security for the loan, Scottish Provident has linked the scheme to a with-profits pension policy. The advantage of this is that premiums on the pension policy are eligible for full tax relief at the highest rate paid, anything between 30 and 60 per cent, whereas life policies only attract relief at 15 per cent.

The self-employed can benefit from this new package, also members of partnerships, and employees if they are not members of an occupational scheme. Clearly the higher the rate of tax paid, the greater the benefit.

The package, believed to be the first of its kind, includes

COMPARISON			
£20,000 loan over 20 years for male age 45			
Low Cost Endowment Plan	£	Pension Linked Plan	£
Interest on loan at 15.5%	268.34	Interest on loan at 15.75%	262.50
Life assurance premium (less tax relief at 15%)	43.26	Pension premium	85.38
	301.60		347.88
Less: Tax relief at 60% on mortgage interest	155.00	Less: Tax relief at 60%	208.72
NET MONTHLY OUTLAY	£146.60	NET MONTHLY OUTLAY	139.16
Cash surplus at maturity (after 20 years)	£4,134	Annual Pension	£6,004

term assurance which provides a lump sum to repay the loan should the borrower die during the term of the mortgage.

Leamington Spa is charging 0.25 per cent more for a pension linked loan but is prepared to consider a mortgage term longer than the standard 20 or 25 years.

With the normal endowment linked method, the loan is repaid with the proceeds of the life policy when it matures. Scottish Provident's pension linked scheme provides the cash to repay the loan out of the lump sum commuted pension benefits which policyholders are able to take at retirement age.

Scottish Provident quotes as an example a 45 year old man who takes a 20 year mortgage of £20,000. Under the low-cost endowment method he would pay the interest on his loan (around 15% per cent from Leamington Spa) plus a life premium of £51 a month before tax relief, or £43 after tax relief.

Lorna Bourke

The Times — Money Programme Unit Trust Competition

Can you beat the investment experts and pick the top performing unit trust for 1982? One hundred pounds worth of unit trusts and the chance to air your views on investment on television is the prize. See how the professional advisers go about making their choice on BBC2 TV's Money Programme, tomorrow at 6.30 pm.



Paul Harwood, Peter Hayes, Peter Edwards and Jamie Berry investment experts who advise private clients on unit trusts

Can you beat the investment gurus?

How often have you watched investment experts making their predictions and felt you could do better? This week we launch The Times Unit Trust Competition in conjunction with the Money Programme on BBC2 Television in which you are offered a chance to beat the investment gurus at their own game — and if you win, appear on television.

Nearly 1,800,000 people have investments in unit trusts worth a total of £5,800m and during 1981 more than £500m worth of units were sold. But how many of these investors chose the trusts themselves, and do they have any idea how their investments will fare in 1982?

We asked four unit trust advisers to pick the top performing unit trust for 1982. Jamie Berry of Jamie Berry Asset Management, Peter Hayes of Planinvest, Peter Edwards of Premier Unit Trust Managers and Paul Harwood of Richards Longstaff all earn their living by advising small investors — on a fee-paying basis — which unit trusts to buy.

With these each allowed three choices and different selections. Out of the twelve trusts chosen, only one was mentioned twice.

Picking the winning trust is clearly not something to which a formula can be applied. We will be

revealing the experts' choices at the end of the month when the competition closes. In the meantime you try your hand at investment by entering the competition and selecting the unit trust you believe will outperform all others during 1982.

You are allowed three choices, but your second and third choices will be taken into account only in the event of three being several winners.

In the unlikely event that more than one person manages to choose all three top performing unit trusts, then the tie-breaker will be invoked. You have to predict how much a £100 investment in the top performing unit trust of your choice will be worth on January 3, 1983.

Entries are split into three categories — general, under eighteen and a special category, professional advisers, for those who earn their living advising on investments.

Winners in each category will receive £100 worth of units in the unit trust of their choice, and there will be prizes for the runners up. In addition, the prizewinners will attend a lunch where they will meet the experts, receive their awards and will be invited to explain on the Money Programme how they made their choices.

Entry forms will be published in The Times family finance pages for the next two Saturdays — 16 and

January 23, or are obtainable from the Money Programme. Full details are published below and you can see the four experts tomorrow on the Money Programme at 6.30pm talking about their choices.

To make things easier, we will also be publishing performance figures showing how individual unit trusts have fared over the past one and two years. The tables are compiled by Planinvest Magazine and will be used as the basis for calculating the best performing unit trust in 1982.

They show the value at January 4, 1982 of £100 invested over the past 12, 24, and 36 months. Any income from the trusts is calculated as being reinvested in more units and this should be taken into account when making your choice.

How do the experts go about things? "We are looking for two things — to buy cheap so that by the end of the year we have the best possible chance of capital growth. And we don't want to get too deeply involved in the currency side," Peter Edwards of Premier Unit Trust Managers said.

"I think 1982 will be another year when overseas stockmarkets perform better than our own," Jamie Berry of Berry Asset Management says.

"The United States economy which began to recover in the Autumn of 1981 will continue on an

upward trend in 1982 — which should particularly benefit smaller companies."

But Peter Hayes of Planinvest has a different view. "Australia is a good number of people will choose this market, and I believe it will come right in 1982."

Paul Harwood of Richards Longstaff thinks "It will be a small specialist fund that will perform best during the year. I prefer a large market and thinks the United States is the place to be in 1982."

"Currencies will not play an important part in 1982," he believes. "Clearly, with very little agreement between the experts the outcome is far from a foregone conclusion. Anyone has a chance of winning. Do not forget to send off your entry well before the closing date of January 30, 1982. Calculations for the best performing trust run from February 1, 1982 to January 3, 1983."

Anyone feeling timid about entering can take comfort from the fact that the experts' set cold feet when their judgment is about to be put on the line. We asked six experts to take part in the competition — all charge fees for advice on unit trusts. Two declined — Robin Boyle of Capital City, and John Savage of Roane Group. It must give their clients something to think about.

Lorna Bourke

Unit trust performance: your guide to the figures

We usually publish unit trust performance statistics on a sector basis — financial trusts, income trusts and so on. To help readers who are entering the unit trust competition make their choice, we will be printing the performance figures for the next two Saturdays. The different types of trust will not be segregated so that it will be easier to see which trust performed best overall during the past 12 and 24 months. The tables show the value on January 4, 1982, of £100 invested in each unit (column A) and two years ago (column B), net income reinvested and based on offer-to-offer prices. Figures supplied by Planinvest, 150-152 Caledonian Road, London N1 9RD.

A	B
M&G/Gilt Income	95.5
Gartmore Inc	95.3
Govest/Stockhold Euro	95.1
Britannia Ship	94.7
Fidelity Gilt & Excl Int	94.4
Henderson Gilt	94.4
Arbuthnot Extra Inc	94.0
Headland Gilt & Excl Int	93.7
S&P/Commod Share	93.5
Arbuthnot Pref	93.5
Brown Shipley Res	92.5
Headland Gilt & Excl Int	92.5
Britannia Growth	91.4
Tower Special Sits	90.9
Intell Gilt & Growth	90.9
Headland Gilt & Excl Int	90.9
Henderson/Aust	89.7
Gartmore Commodity	89.7
Midland Drayton Cap	89.1
Tydale/Natural Res	88.9
Britannia S. & S. General	87.5
Robert Fraser Unit Trst	86.5
New Court Energy Res	86.5
Finlay Fintail Wind Key	86.1
S&P/Exploratory	86.1
Craigmont Canadian	85.6
Barclaybank Australia	84.7
Arbuthnot Com Share	82.9
Headland Gilt & Excl Int	82.4
Tower Special Sits	82.4
Britannia Minerals	82.0
S&P Energy Industries	81.8
Headland Gilt & Excl Int	81.8
Chiefman Basic Res	76.5
Key Energy Industries	75.7
M&G/Australian	68.9
Barclaybank Australia	68.9
Gartmore Spec Sits	68.9
CT Capital	100.2
London Wall/Finance	99.8
S&P/Gilt & Excl Int	99.8
Britannia Inter Gilt	99.7
Britannia Int Trst Shts	99.5
Headland Gilt & Excl Int	99.5
Gilt Growth	99.3
Fidelity Reference Shts	99.3
M&G/Commod & Gen	99.3
Headland Gilt & Excl Int	99.3
Britannia Special Sits	99.3
Henderson Gilt & Excl Int	99.3
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In brief

New offer from Leeds

High Return Access Shares from the Leeds Permanent Building Society offer a return of 11.75 per cent net of basic rate tax for investments of £500 or more. Money can be withdrawn on three months' notice, but there is a penalty. No interest will be paid on the amount withdrawn during the notice period. If you are likely to make withdrawals this might not be such an attractive deal.

Flexi

Flexishares from the Peterborough Building Society are paying 11 per cent net of basic rate tax, and offer monthly interest payments with money available at 28 days' notice.

The differential over the Society's investment share rate of 9.75 per cent is guaranteed at 1.25 per cent for deposits over £2,000, or 1.0 per cent for deposits between £500 and £2,000. Money can be withdrawn without notice but there will be a penalty of 28 days' loss of interest on the amount withdrawn. If notice is given there is no penalty.

Bond

Hill Samuel's five year guaranteed income bond offers a return of up to 13.1 per cent, net of basic rate tax and the choice of monthly, half-yearly or annual income payments. This is equivalent to a before tax return of 18.6 per cent to basic rate taxpayers.

Friends

Competition in the self-employed pensions market has led to many improvements in schemes. It is only relatively recently that insurers started to pay interest on premiums returned on the death of the pension plan holder. Now Friends Provident is following the latest trend and returning the whole of the accumulated fund on the death of the policyholder.

North

Northern Rock Building Society is doing away with differential mortgage rates for all new loans up to £37,500 and will be charging a flat 15 per cent. Existing borrowers will have their repayments adjusted where necessary from April 1, 1982.

Income

A five year income bond from Crown Life pays 12.0 per cent a year net of basic rate tax, equivalent to a return of 17.1 per cent before tax. Minimum investment is £1,000 and capital is returned in full at the end of the five year term.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14 1/2%
Barclays	14 1/2%
BCCI	14 1/2%
Consolidated Crds.	14 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co.	14 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	14 1/2%
Midland Bank	14 1/2%
Nat Westminster	14 1/2%
TSB	14 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	14 1/2%

* 7 day deposit on sum of £10,000 secured 12 1/2% per annum, 12 1/2% overdraft £50,000 13 1/2%.

Your Unit Trusts

— How are you doing? Up or down, there's no harm in reading our free brochure. One or other of our unit trust broking services could help you to do better. Shareholders turn to their Stockbroker - who do you consult? Why not try Peter Edwards and James Douglas at PREMIER UNIT TRUST BROKERS. Tel: 0272 278606. Royal London House, Queen Charlotte Street, Bristol BS1 4EX.

Please send me details of your services
Name _____
Address _____

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Loyal Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	Company	Price	Change	Gross	Yld	P/E	Full
High	Low			(Div)	(%)		Yield
119	100	ABT Hides 10% CULS	119	-	10.0	8.4	-
75	62	Airprung Group	70	-	4.7	6.7	11.1
75	33	Armitage & Rhodes	46	+1	4.3	9.3	8.7
200	187	Barrill Bond	200	-	9.7	4.9	9.7
104	86	Deborah Services	86	-	5.5	6.4	8.3
129	97	Frank Horsell	129	-	6.4	5.0	11.6
68	39	Frederick Parker	68	-	1.7	2.5	29.6
78	46	George Blair	48	-	-	-	-
102	93	IPC	96	-1	7.3	7.6	6.9
105	100	Lais Conv. Prof.	105	+1	15.7	15.0	3.1
113	95	Jackson Group	97	-	7.0	7.2	8.1
130	108	James Burroughs	114	-	8.7	7.6	8.3
334	256	Robert Jenkins	256	-	31.3	12.2	8.6
59	51	Suttons "A"	55	+1	5.3	9.6	8.5
222	167	Torrey & Carlisle	167	-	10.7	6.4	5.4
15	10	Twinkl Ord	13	-	15.0	20.3	-
80	66	Twinkl 15% ULS	29	-	3.0	10.3	5.2
44	29	Unilever Holdings	77	-	6.4	8.3	5.1
103	77	Walter Alexander	216	-	13.1	6.1	4.1
263	212	W. S. Yeates	-	-	-	-	-

Prices now available on Prestel Page 48146



Bonus protection plan will suit star drivers

For experienced motorists the New Year brings a special offer from Eagle Star. Its new no-claims bonus protection scheme allows the motorist to make up to two claims in any three consecutive years without affecting the no-claim discount.

The scheme is confined to drivers over 30 already holding a maximum no-claim discount. The policy will cost 10 per cent more than conventional insurance with the same coverage, but this falls to 5 per cent at the first renewal with no further surcharges if the policy is continued after the second year.

Eagle Star quotes an example of a middle-aged driver living in Ashted, Surrey, driving a Mini Metro 1.3L who pays £95 in premiums with full no-claim discount. The policy will cost 10 per cent more than conventional insurance with the same coverage, but this falls to 5 per cent at the first renewal with no further surcharges if the policy is continued after the second year.

A motorist with a Cortina Ghia 1600 living in Basingstoke would pay £129.60 with full no-claim bonus for similar cover and £129.60 for the bonus protection.

The scheme is matched by similar no claim discount protection schemes operated by General Accident, Sun Alliance and others, and the Automobile Association is also mounting interest in the idea.

But signs are that the motorist cannot expect much more in the way of concessions. Although most insurance companies have been delaying premium rises this year, this is unlikely to continue far into 1982.

Eagle Star has held its rates steady since May missing out its schedule premium review later in the year but hints that a price rise in April is likely. The Prudential also says that it will have to reconsider prices "early in the new year".

For the driver needing a policy immediately the market has never been as good. Several companies have recently announced price freezes and policy buyers should find that these bargains have a shelf life lasting well into the new year.

Over the year insurance companies have reviewed their ratings for several parts of the country as well as premiums for many smaller family saloons and there have been worthwhile reductions in premium rates. These are not universally applied and vary substantially from company to company.

It is worth a little spade work to find out if any insurer is offering your particular combination of car and area any premium concessions.

Most insurers have downgraded small modern hatchbacks such as the Metro and Fiesta as well as some medium sized family saloons such as the Cavalier. There is less consistency on area

ratings. General Accident, for example, has reduced premiums in Cheshire, Derbyshire (excluding Derby), Durham, Hull, Merseyside (not Liverpool), Oxford and Renfrewshire (excluding Glasgow). Phoenix includes Durham in its reductions but also includes Cambridge, Wiltshire and Dundee.

How much can this save the motorist? Take a man aged 30, driving an Escort 1.1 in rural Derby - both the car and area were down graded in insurance ratings by General Accident. If he had an open driver policy with full no claim discount he would have been paying a premium of £102 before May 31, 1981. But after both reductions this would fall 20 per cent to £80.

Compare this with the daunting premiums faced by drivers who have just passed their test. Guardian Royal Exchange quotes a premium of £275 for third party, fire and theft cover for an 18 year old student, driving a standard mini outside the Birmingham map area.

Motor insurance is an area where it pays to consult an insurance broker as the number of policies available is enormous and the terms and conditions change substantially each year.

Patrick Donovan
British Insurance Brokers Association, Fountain House, 130 Finchchurch Street, EC3M 5DJ. Tel: 01-623 9043. Quoted Insurance, 83 Clerkenwell Road, EC1 1TL. Tel: 01-242 0747.

Winners in Far East

Funds investing in Japan and the Far East proved to be the eventual winners in the annual unit trust league table. Only Arbuthnot Smaller Companies in 5th place prevented them from making a clean sweep of the top ten. The Arbuthnot portfolio is predominantly in the United Kingdom, but there is also a substantial stake in the United States.

Last year, in fact, turned out to be a profitable one for a lot of trusts invested abroad. Roughly two-thirds of the first fifty funds specialise in one overseas market or another. However, this was not necessarily a reflection of better stock exchange performance elsewhere in the world, but rather the weakening of sterling. For instance, Wall Street, as measured by the Dow Jones Industrial Index, fell by nearly 10 per cent over the year, but adjusted for the dollar/sterling exchange rate movement the index scores a near 14 per cent gain.

Eight funds concentrating on America achieve a place in the first fifty, several of them specialising in small United States companies and recovery stocks. M & G American Recovery leads the contingent from across the Atlantic in 14th place with a clear margin over its closest rivals, Framlington American and Henderson North American.

In a distinct change of fortune in 1980, when all funds investing in European markets ended well down the performance table, both Henderson European and Graveland European Grant's London & Brussels fund finish 1981 in the top two dozen. Both trusts have apparently gained from the strong showing of the Scandinavian exchanges, where they have sizable investments.

Turning to home, the best result from a United Kingdom portfolio was achieved by Warburg Investment Management's Mercury General in 12th place, finished 1980 in the top ten, now languish in the last twenty.

The three Australian trusts, managed by Barclays Unicorn, Henderson and M & G, respectively, which finished 1980 in the top ten, now languish in the last twenty.

Companies. One category of funds, nearly all United Kingdom, which have also ended 1981 well are equity income trusts. Twenty-two such funds appear amongst the top hundred headed by Perpetual Income, ranked at 16th. TSB Income is listed eleven places behind, just one step ahead of Henderson Income & Growth.

Basically funds concentrating on commodity and energy shares dominate the laggards for the year. The restored fortunes of all these trusts depends on how quickly the main world economies can climb out of recession. Much the same can be said about those trusts investing in natural resource stocks "down under". These funds have suffered a dramatic change of standing over the last year.

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Stein: extremely tough.



Greenwood: ideal.



England: long journeys.



Bingham: little comfort.



Hand: a bad draw.

Group one
Belgium, East Germany, Scotland and Switzerland.

Group three
England, Hungary, Greece, Denmark and Luxembourg.

Group four
Yugoslavia, Wales, Bulgaria and Norway.

Group six
W Germany, Austria, N Ireland, Turkey and Albania.

Group seven
Spain, Netherlands, Republic of Ireland, Iceland and Malta.

Fair stands the wind for England

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Whatever happens in Spain, the seeds of England should be sown on French soil in 1984. Yesterday's draw for the European championship put them at the top of group three, even though their best performance was in reaching the semi-final round in 1968. Their main adversary will be Hungary, as they were in qualifying for the World Cup finals, as none of the other three—Greece, Denmark and Luxembourg—have ever beaten England.

With only the winners of each of the seven groups going through to the finals with the host nation, Britain is almost certain to have fewer representatives than in Spain this summer. Indeed, as on three previous occasions, England alone may qualify. After their recent performance on the world stage, though, even that is far from certain.

Ron Greenwood described it as "an ideal draw, good for whoever takes over from me". He is expected to retire after the World Cup finals are finished in July and the first European games will not take place until at least August. Since he became manager, England have three times met and beaten Hungary, who were involved, both inside and outside the City Stadium, in what was a rehearsal for the riots of Basle and Turin.

England have played Greece only twice before, in the same competition in 1971, and won comfortably. Denmark drew their first match with England in Copenhagen in 1948 but have since lost the other six, including both group matches, by the only goal during the last championship.

Luxembourg, one of the few European nations that can still be regarded as minnows, could ironically cause the most trouble. Of their five defeats by England, the last took place in the 1978 World Cup competition. Luxembourg lost not only the home tie 2-0 but also their fair in England supporters, who were involved, both inside and outside the City Stadium, in what was a rehearsal for the riots of Basle and Turin.

England among top seeds for draw

By Stuart Jones

England were yesterday confirmed as one of the top six seeds for the World Cup draw which takes place in Madrid next Saturday. Hungary, as expected, are Spain, the hosts, Argentina, the holders, and three former winners, Brazil, Italy and West Germany.

In an effort to avoid political problems and maintain a balance, all six European finalists have been ranked second in priority and the West European remnants third, together with the South

Americans. The six newcomers, the dark horses, are gathered at the bottom of the list. With Scotland, who have qualified for the last three tournaments, and Northern Ireland both seeded in the third of the four sections, all three British representatives could be drawn in the same group. Jack Stein, though, believes that the arrangements are still far from certain, although Jock Havelange, president of FIFA, confirmed that they are.

Billy Bingham, Northern Ireland's manager, said that he was surprised by Scotland's inclusion among the third group, but added: "The way the teams may now come out of the hat, it gives us a better chance of finishing in the top two in our group and making further progress."

SECOND: Argentina, Spain, Italy, West Germany, England and Brazil. THIRD: Northern Ireland, Scotland, France, Belgium, Peru, Chile. FOURTH: Algeria, Cameroon, Honduras, El Salvador, Kuwait, China or New Zealand.

Kiwis confidence high

Singapore, Jan 8.—The New Zealand team arrived here today, confident they will have the edge over China in Sunday's play-off to decide the 24th and last place in the World Cup finals in Spain this summer. After being greeted by a colourful Maori welcome, their English-born manager, John Edhead, predicted the game would be tight, but probably in his team's favour.

"It's going to be close and I don't think there will be more than one goal between us," he told a press conference. "But we have the edge since we have taken three points off China in our last two encounters."

In their Asia-Oceania qualifying zone matches New Zealand held China to a goalless draw in Peking and won 1-0 in Auckland. The two sides tied for second place behind the group winners Kuwait following New Zealand's astonishing 5-0 triumph against Saudi Arabia last month.

Keen interest in China's fortunes among Singapore's predominantly Chinese supporters ensured that 60,000 seats here were snapped up within hours of going on sale yesterday.

Price cuts for young fans
By Norman Fox
Sportsworld travel, the company with a monopoly on World Cup tickets in Britain, are attempting to fend off criticism of their charges by offering cheaper deals for supporters under the age of 26. Trains and camps will be used. Package deals originally cost between £295 and £1,895.

Not bad for a scratch pair, Lloyd sums up

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

The four teams for today's semi-final round of the World Championship Tennis doubles tournament, sponsored by Barclay's at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, will be Peter McNamara and Paul McNamee, Kevin Cawley and Steve Denton, Heinz Günthard and Balazs Taroczy and Sherwood Stewart and Ferdi Taygan.

This elite emerged after eight teams had competed in two groups of four on an all-play-all basis during the first four days. The preliminary series had an interesting climax last evening when the unusual British partnership of John Lloyd and Christopher Mottram went on court knowing that they would themselves be in the last four as long as they conceded no more than one set to McNamara and McNamee.

Poxon recovers form and his will to win

By Lewine Mair

In today's final of the Junior Commonwealth Championships, sponsored by Prudential at Queens, Paul Heath, the No. 2 seed, is up against a determined young man in the unseeded James Poxon of Nottinghamshire.

Devlin proves point against an awesome opponent

By John Hennessy
Golf Correspondent

The field for the President's Putter was reduced to 16 at Rye yesterday. The players themselves were reduced to shivering when the rain fell on the 18th hole, the last of the round, and the rain was reduced to a drizzle.

Stadler firing on both barrels

From John Ballantine
Tucson, Jan 8

Craig Stadler, the 28-year-old, bear-like Californian who played in the Walker Cup and amateur tournaments, was today in the thick of the first round of the 1982 United States Open.

Frenchman who gave the referee a bouquet

Only Jacques Secrétin, the acrobatic Frenchman who specialised in recovering from the ropes, was able to delay Chinese dominance of the Norwich Upton English open championships at the Upton Leisure Centre yesterday.

Table tennis

Men's singles

Ice hockey

5th NATIONAL LEAGUE: Boston Bruins 4-1 Los Angeles Kings 3-2 Detroit Red Wings 3-1 Philadelphia Flyers 2-1 New York Islanders 1-0

SNOW CONDITIONS GOOD.

EQUIPMENT SELECTION EXCELLENT.

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Cricket

Last exit in Calcutta for doourest son of York

The supreme irony behind Geoffrey Boycott's bizarre departure from England's cricket tour of India is that it should have come within a fortnight of him becoming the most prolific scorer in Test match history. Boycott has always devalued himself single-mindedly to making runs and it is no secret that he has succeeded only by acquiring a simultaneous reputation for playing for himself and for being a poor team man.

In his early days he was considered an eccentric and thought of as self-portrait. The evidence was provided by poor running between the wickets that lost his partners their wickets and the way in which he would often bat more slowly than was in his side's interests.

He did not change greatly as the years passed, but the sheer weight of his achievements partly silenced the criticisms by outsiders, even if he remained a loner and relatively frictionless in the dressing room. The various controversies in which he was involved only served to fuel the fires.

His refusal to play for England in the mid-seventies and his disappointing captaincy of Yorkshire which led to him being stripped of the job were only some of the incidents in a career that was debated in print more expansively than that of any other modern player. On the field his own batting in an era of low scoring and defensive fields continued to be a marvel of technical perfection and personal success.

The boy from a south Yorkshire mining village who feared having to spend his day in the company of his male relative became famous worldwide and made an enormous financial success of his life. He did not always find this fame easy to manage. There were numerous brushes with officialdom and a series of unfortunate remarks at various times, all of them gleefully reported.

A saving grace was his treatment of children. It was seldom that a young autograph hunter was rejected and in

shipped by those he has helped at schools and in youth clubs. But time and time again he was his own worst enemy. His defects never made him suitable for the England captaincy, the one post he coveted more than any other.

By the time he was England's most experienced and successful player he felt the job should have come to him by right. For all his many triumphs as a batsman, though, Boycott was never able to accept that his talents did not extend to leading a team. He was always too wrapped up in his own game to take on the overall care of a side at home and certainly on tour where the ambassadorial duties for an England captain are as important as his own skills in the game.

It might have been best if Boycott had not accepted his invitation to come on the present India tour. He has already twice rejected the chance to visit India primarily for health reasons. He had his spleen removed as a child after an accident and India with its various problems was no place for a man so conscious of what food he should or should not eat.

Boycott has been splendidly handled on this trip by a management conscious that the runs he could score had to outweigh any irritating aspects of his behaviour. He has often been excused official functions and has usually had a room to himself and escaped having to share one again. As always the occasional beer, the parties and general camaraderie that made a tour for most people have not been for him. He has been early nights in readiness for the next day's practice or play. He has consistently found the uncomfortable side of touring India harder to accept than most.

As Boycott has got older he has become more and more of a hypochondriac. The slightest physical problem assumes major proportions and leaving him acutely depressed. That is what has happened in the past 48 hours. His insensitive behaviour by



Boycott: not for him the beer, parties and camaraderie of touring.

getting out of fielding on the last day in Calcutta, but his willingness to play got the same afternoon was rather sadly typical of the way he can disrupt team spirit. It proved the final straw on this tour.

As a matter of record there was not a single expression of regret from Boycott's teammates when they learned in Jamshedpur that he had left for England. It really does seem now that no selectors will risk picking him again for England at home or overseas.

In Port of Spain 14 years ago he once confessed to the writer during a Test match that his greatest ambition was to make 400 in a Test. When he pointed out that it would necessitate him batting at least three days or more his eyes behind the glasses he wore on those days glistened even more with anticipation. Like the England captaincy Boycott's hopes of that 400 are never going to be fulfilled.

Richard Streeton

W Indies pay price for fast bowlers

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Melbourne, Jan 8

More and more the West Indians are having to pay the price for being so obviously committed to fast bowling. Wherever they go, outside their own islands that is, they find themselves playing on pitches which have had the life taken out of them. That together with the fact that Marshall has been unfit and Roberts, Croft and Garner are all at the age when slow bowlers are not as easily defied as they were, leaves their position as undisputed champions in some peril.

Since losing to New Zealand in Dunedin in March 1980, West Indies have played 16 Test matches. Of these, 11 have been drawn and only four won. Of their last four they have lost one and drawn three.

In Jamaica last April, when Gower made 154 and, out, a year in Sydney this week when Dyson was undefeated with 127, they suffered from a lack of spin. The fact that Holding bowled most of his 19 overs off a short run was indicative of a collective frustration.

In Australia two winters ago the whole West Indian side, with the exception of Lloyd, kept fit. At the moment Greenidge has a bad knee, Murray a bad hand, and a bad shoulder. Lloyd, the troublemaker groin and Marshall a sore side. Although Holding, with his incomparable rhythm, took 16 wickets in the first two Test matches, the fast bowling formula may soon have to be modified if only temporarily. It is not too much to hope for.

If West Indies can take less for granted on the field than a year or two ago, they remain as popular as ever. Yesterday, on television, it was possible to watch a more of them.

Franklyn Stephenson and Wayne Daniel, opening the bowling for Tasmania and Western Australia respectively. Daniel was the consistent bowler in a one-day match, Stephenson, another Barbadian, much the fastest. The best batsman on either side was Brian Davidson, who captains Tasmania.

The standard of commentary, all by former Test players, was simply awful dash except for the referee's replays. The never-ending, the umpires' judgments subjected to constant scrutiny, if ever a panel is set up of supposedly the best umpires in the world the camera, you may be sure, will find them scarcely less fallible than all those it puts on trail today.

The next time the Australian, West Indian and Pakistani teams play in white clothing will be in January 30. Until then they will be on the pyjama circuit, some dressed in yellow, some blue, some maroon.

For the marketing people it is important that Australia should reach the finals of the one-day competition; but it is by no means certain that they will. Being fresher than the Australians or the West Indians, the Pakistanis are not to be written off. After a bad start to the Test series they have won several of their last eight matches and beaten Australia by an innings on the ground where, a fortnight later, Australia beat West Indies. But more about the javas and the Zaheers another time.

Skiing

Course is ideal for Apples

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Melbourne, Jan 8

Pronten, West Germany, Jan 8 — Irene Apple, the West German skier raced to her third victory in four World Cup giant slalom when she twice set the fastest runs down the Pronten course today.

Miss Apple's combined time of 2:24.70 earned her victory ahead of Erika Hess of Switzerland in 2:25.81. Miss Apple retained her lead over Miss Apple in the overall World Cup standings, although her advantage has now been reduced by five points. Miss Apple's younger sister, Maria, finished third in 2:25.92.

Today's winner, the silver medalist at the Lake Placid Olympics, maintained her lead in the giant slalom standings with 35 points, ahead of the second-placed Miss Hess on 68.

A downhill race could have been held today, but officials called it off yesterday because of the icy conditions and brought forward the giant slalom, which had been scheduled for tomorrow.

The bitter cold ensured that the course remained icy, while snow fell throughout the contest. "It was a great race for me," Irene Apple said. She added that the course had been ideal for her "because the lower section was flatter."

Willi Lesch, the West German trainer, set the gates for the second run, which could have suited his team's style. Irene Apple's victory improved her chances immensely in the combination — today's event counts with the forthcoming downhill at Grindelwald as the final of the series.

Tomorrow's event at Pronten will be another giant slalom, replacing the one called off yesterday.

Bad weather for the third day in a row also forced the cancellation of the fourth World



Irene Apple takes a snowstorm in her slide to another giant slalom triumph.

Cup men's downhill of the season scheduled for the weekend in Morzine-Avoriaz, France.

Visibility was adequate but high winds forced race organizers to lower the starting gate to a more sheltered area and thus shorten the course.

The competitors then were forced to climb the last few yards to the start on foot when one of the chairlifts was unable to operate because of the fierce winds.

Fifteen minutes before the first race was scheduled to run, it began to rain, forcing race organizers to admit defeat for the third time. On Thursday a heavy fog prevented competitors from

training and on Wednesday, it was rain and snow which forced the cancellation of the first of the scheduled training runs. Under World Cup rules, racers must run at least two training runs before the actual race.

Results: 1. Apple (W.G.) 2:24.70, 2. Hess (S.W.) 2:25.81, 3. Lesch (Austria) 2:25.92, 4. Scherzer (W.G.) 2:26.14, 5. Maecher (W.G.) 2:26.42, 6. Steiner (Austria) 2:27.42, 7. Scherzer (W.G.) 2:28.34, 8. Brand (Austria) 2:28.58, 9. Apple (W.G.) 2:29.47, 10. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 11. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 12. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 13. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 14. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 15. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 16. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 17. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 18. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 19. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 20. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 21. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 22. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 23. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 24. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 25. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 26. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 27. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 28. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 29. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 30. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 31. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 32. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 33. Peierl (Austria) 2:30.44, 34. 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Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 2

ITV LONDON

Radio 4

11.45 t m

philosophical

Special.†

ala

Radio 1
 12.00 As Radio 2, 7.00 Playground,
 10.00 Tony Blackburn, 10.00 Peter
 Dinklage, 12.00 My Top 12, 2.00 Adrian
 Patten, 2.00 A Kung in New York, 2.00
 Richard Skinner, 4.00 Walter's
 Weekly, 5.00 Rock On, 6.30 in
 concert.

WORLD SERVICE

[illegible]

Radio 1/2 VHF 88.91MHz. Radio 3
MF 720kHz/417m LBC MF
and VHF 94.9MHz. World Service

ULSTER

London except: Starts 10.00 am-
30 Stingray. 5 pm-5.05 Sports
bulletins. 7.45-8.45 Magnum. 11.10
Park and Mindy. 11.30 Bedtime,
followed by Closedown.

ANGLIA

London except: Starts 9.00 am

YORKSHIRE


ance Fiction, 7.45pm 8.45 Magnum.
 10.00 Midnight: That's Hollywood!
 Sellers, 12.30am Closesown.

TYNE TEES

5.00am London Express. Starts 9.00 am
 9.10am Whistle and the
 9.45am Bunch, 9.40 Thunderbirds.
 10.15pm The 15 Minute Man, 5.15 News.
 11.00pm 5.45 Black Report, 7.45-8.45
 12.30am 12.00 House Calls, 12.30
 3pm. Company, 12.35
 Closesown.

TVS

London Express. Starts 9.00 am
 9.10am Brief, 9.05 Here's Boomer.
 9.50am The 15 Minute Man, 10.30 No. 73.
 11.00pm 11.15pm The 15 Minute Man, 11.15pm
 11.15pm 12.15pm 5.20-5.45 Mr Martin:
 a programme about an American
 teenage offender in fear of losing his
 programme as a sorcerer, 12.00 Company
 Closesown by Closesown.

ITV: THE SYMBOLS MEAN:  STEREO

Radio 1

Tony Blackburn, 10.0 Noel
Nesbitt, 1.0 Jimmy Saville's 'Old
School' Club, 3.0 Studio 5B, 5.0 Top
Gear, 7.0 The Record
Review, 8.0 News, 9.0
Sports, 10.0 Close.

WORLD SERVICE

World Service can be received in
most Europe on medium wave 645kHz
at the following times GMT: 6.00
News, 7.00 World News, 7.00 News
at Britain, 7.15 From Our Own
Correspondent, 7.30 Classical Record
Review, 7.45 The End of the Affair, 8.00
News, 8.05 Sport, 8.15 The

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ULSTER

London except: Starts 10.00 am
Morning Worship, 11.30-12.00
Lining Time, 12.55 pm News
University Challenge, 1.30
hrs, 2.00 pm Alphabet: Story of
A, 4.35-4.50 P.M. Italian Job
(Bob Caine, Noel Coward) Petty
becomes involved in plot to
£4m worth of gold, 11.30
P.M. News, 11.55 Bedtime,
down.

BORDER

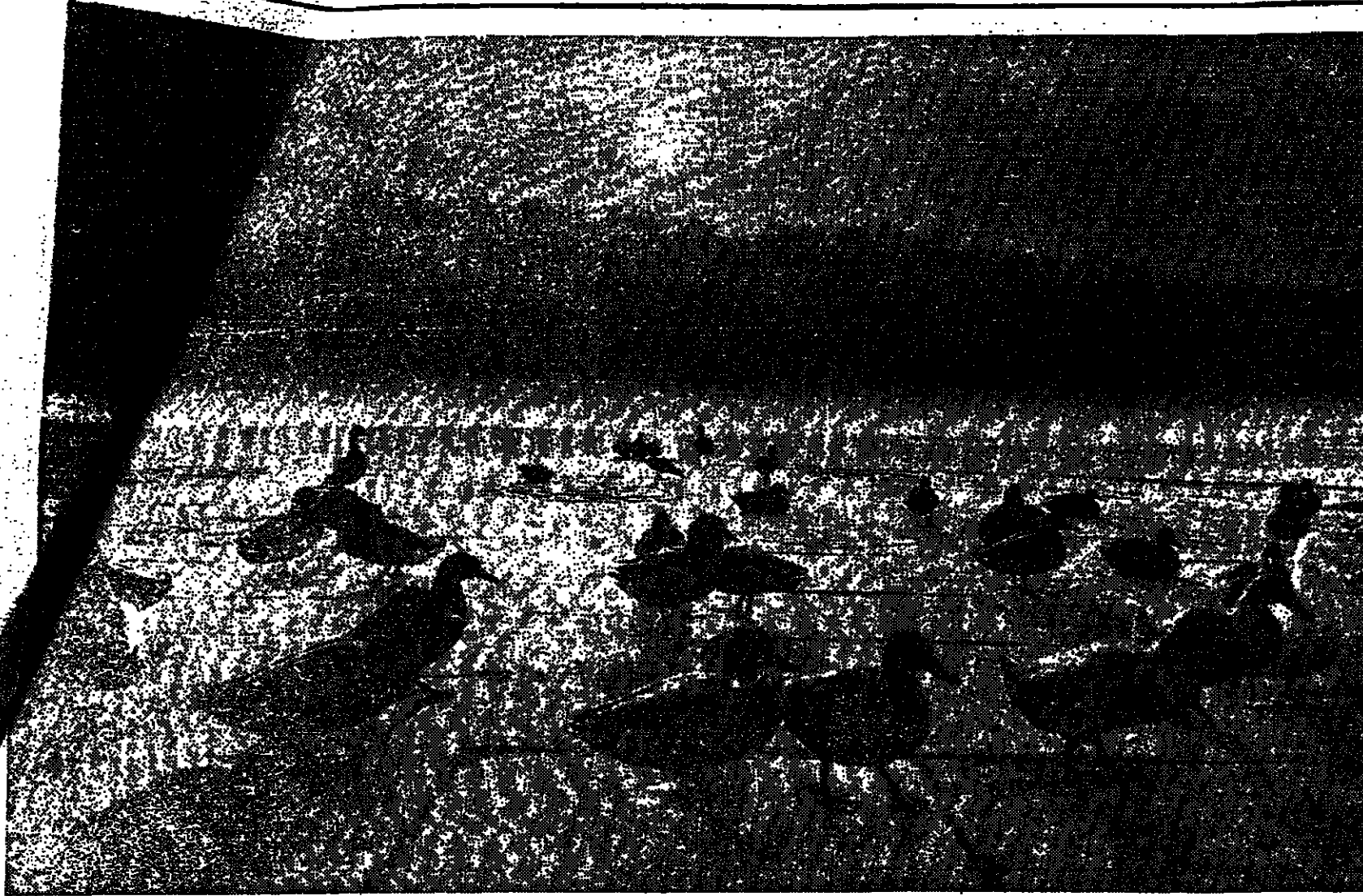
London except: Starts 9.30 am
No Need to Shout, 11.30-12.00
Lining Time, 1.00 pm University
Challenge, 1.30 Farming Outlook,
1.50 Greatest Thinkers: Moses,
Shorley Dean, 4.35 Film: Fire
Birds (Chad Everett) Starts 11.30

TYNE TEES

On. 9.30 No Need To Shout, 1.00 Lookaround, 11.02 Kum Kum, 1.00 Paving Kicks, 11.58-12.00 News, 1.00 University Challenge, 1.30 The 100th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion, 2.00 Welcome Back, 2.30-3.30 Shout, 4.30-5.00 The Incredible Hulk, 5.30-5.35 Little on the Prairie, 11.30 City of S, 12.30 am Epilogue.

HTV

London except: Starts 9.00 am Sesame Street, 11.30-12.00 No to Shout, 1.00 pm University Challenge, 1.30 Farming Diary, 2.00-2.30 The 100th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion, 4.30-5.30 The 100th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion, 5.30-5.35 Little on the Prairie, 11.30 City of S, 12.30 am Epilogue.



Boycott's ducks: Birds given to Geoffrey Boycott by the Wild Fowl Trust taking the sun at Newmillerdam Country Park, west Yorkshire.

When Boycott the loner found that golf was just not cricket

Continued from page 1

It was just one factor which indicated that he was not seeing things straight", Mr Row said. "As a result he was asked to see the tour management committee of Bernard Thomas, Keith Fletcher and Bob Willis."

"He apologized and said he had not realized he was doing anything wrong by going off and playing golf, which we accepted. He also left a note of apology to his own colleagues in the team room."

"Geoff then left us and we had a discussion about the whole position and worked out what was going to be best for English cricket and also for the individual concerned."

It was "mutually agreed" that Boycott should return home. The player stressed at King's Cross, while awaiting a train to the North, that his premature homecoming was for medical reasons only. "I don't know of anything else", he added.

Donald Carr, secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board, said "I am not entirely sure that Geoff himself knows exactly what his cricket future will be but as far as the board are concerned he will be available for selection by England in the summer, provided he is playing, just like any other player."

Mr Carr refused suggestions that Boycott's return was for disciplinary as much as health reasons. "I have been in touch

twice over the last couple of days with tour manager Subba Row and he indicated that the sole reason for Boycott's homecoming is because of his physical condition."

Boycott has always been a loner on tour. He is a non-smoker and a virtual reclus. He never mixed easily. While England will mourn the loss of a great player, some of the country's cricketers may breathe signs of relief.

Boycott profile, page 21

Chaos after night of the blizzards

Continued from page 1

Hundreds of council workers and snow clearing vehicles were out throughout the night in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset in an attempt to keep roads open.

Half-submerged by floodwaters for the past week, the beleaguered town of Selby, North Yorkshire, suffered continuous and heavy snowfalls yesterday as people set about mopping up operations (Ronald Kerstow writes).

Although the level of the River Ouse has fallen markedly, the floodwater has not drained quickly enough and the Yorkshire Water Authority yesterday sent in 12 pumps to get rid of the water trapped outside the river banks.

Teams of council workers, electricity and gas board men, backed by troops, were out yesterday attempting to ensure that about 200 flooded homes were safe to return to.

Two European MPs, Mr Neil Balfour of North Yorkshire, and Mr Brian Keir, of South Yorkshire, are to attempt to obtain flood relief funds from the EEC. This move has been made in the light of the statement made by Mr Giles Shaw, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, that aid would be made available by the government.

At York the floodwaters have virtually disappeared but teams of workers are operating in the four main housing areas affected.

The freezing weather has stopped the clearance of drains and sewers in the town but traffic is now moving normally in York.

Britain did not suffer alone yesterday. The first heavy snow of the winter fell on Paris, also blocking roads in Normandy and Brittany and cutting power lines to 10,000 people. The Seine is dangerously swollen, as is the Rhine in West Germany.

The icy eighties, page 6

Trees poisoned by 'acid rain'

Germany's beloved forests are dying

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Jan 8

First the tops of the majestic fir trees began to look thin and grey. Needles then fall, branches begin to wither. Finally, during winter storms, whole trees would come crashing down.

The sickness, which first alarmed only the foresters, is horrifying the whole of West Germany: the trees in the country's most beloved forests are dying, poisoned by a deadly "acid rain" from the sky.

Half the country's fir trees are ailing and the sickness is spreading to the spruce, pine and other conifers which make up half of West Germany's forests. The more resistant oaks and beeches are also beginning to sicken.

A leading forest expert, Professor Bernhard Ulrich, has predicted that whole forests will die in the next five years. Professor Peter Schütt, a Munich botanist, fears "an ecological catastrophe of hitherto unimaginable proportions".

If they are right, West Germany is heading for a national tragedy, as one third of the country is covered with the superb, ancient forests which are so much a part of the German soul. For centuries they have inspired poems, songs, music and literature. Many Germans like to hike in them for days on end and 40 per cent of the population goes for a forest walk at least once a month.

The forests are being destroyed by West Germany's wealth: by the pollution from industry from the domestic central heating and the traffic. The experts are almost certain that the forests are being killed by sulphur dioxide. No fewer than 3,500,000 tons of it are estimated to fall over West Germany as dust, or diluted as acid rain.

It is the same acid which, with others, is eating into the stone of ancient churches and even modern buildings. The gargoyles and gothic tracery of Cologne Cathedral have worn away faster in the past 30 years than in the 300 years before.

It is not just the forests near the Ruhr and other industrial areas that are dying. Whole areas of the Black Forest and Bavaria, far from any industry, are affected. Ironically, the poison has been spread by the especially high factory chimneys built in the 1970s to combat air pollution.

Herr Josef Ertl, the Agriculture Minister, has called for more stringent regulations to reduce the output of sulphur dioxide in factories and other places where fuel is burnt.

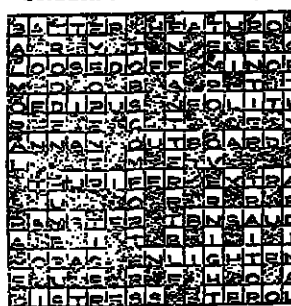
"Measures to check this danger cannot be put off any longer", he said. He believes that the problem can at least be substantially improved by such measures and he is urging research into better methods of eliminating sulphur dioxide from the air.

Foresters are at a loss to know what to do about the sickness. Some are spreading calcium on the soil but experts think it will have little effect and they have given warning that it might encourage fungus diseases.

Scientists say that as it seeps into the earth the acid rain releases aluminium and manganese which are toxic to the tree roots. The tree cannot absorb enough water. It begins to rot inside and harmful bacteria creep in. The needles fall and the tree weakens and eventually dies.

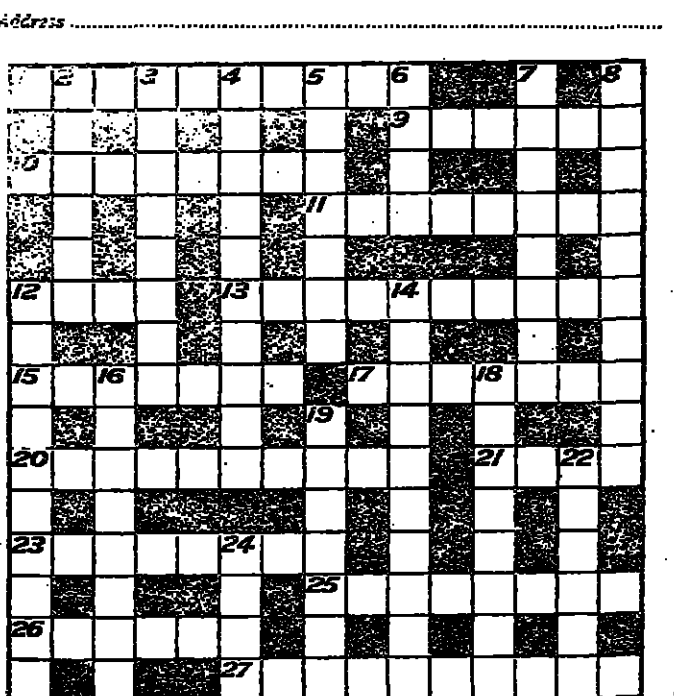
THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution of Puzzle No 15,719



The Times Crossword No 15,725

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first correct solution opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winner and solution will be published next Saturday. The winner of last Saturday's competition is Mr A. J. Batchelor, 4 Piddington Close, Colwall, Malvern, Worcs.



ACROSS

- 1 Pupils I had, clever or dreadful (10).
- 2 Ignoring contents of paper, often too quickly (6).
- 3 Friend Laertes might lose, worried Polonius (6).
- 4 Fall behind, sweeping parts at rear of stage (4-4).
- 5 Revolutionary action brings excitement (4).
- 6 Unlucky lover's burden easy in such a procession (10).
- 7 One who studies, in short, a right angle (7).
- 8 Having round figure before turning into large tub — to do this? (7).
- 9 Organizer of mixed doubles? (10).
- 10 Partly open a vessel (4).
- 11 Refusal, for example, to follow leader in race (8).
- 12 Sweetheart meets corporal, perhaps, in dance (8).
- 13 Second toe — eagle at first for this chap (6).
- 14 What Austrians besieging Belgrade do, everyone repeats (10).

DOWN

- 1 Player too boisterous, some found (6).
- 2 National hero rises with hesitation — bravo! (8).
- 3 Held by dam, river wets no parts here (10).
- 4 Two pieces of music — A major — played (7).
- 5 Put suitable finish on best unfinished poem (4).
- 6 One striving to survive heat, perhaps... (10).
- 7 And one who does, ran — a medal in order (10).
- 8 Transport to bring right into South Coast town, with skill (10).
- 9 Tragic heroine of 23 ruined (8).
- 10 Come back to harvest fruit (8).
- 11 Half of cask — almost completely shows capacity for drink (7).
- 12 Bird's octave composition (6).
- 13 Minimal letter (4).

Today's events

Exhibitions
Fossils and the engravers, University Art Gallery, Portland Building, Nottingham University, 11 to 2.
Contemporary exhibition, Ipswich Museum and Gallery, High Street, Ipswich, 10 to 5.
Caravan, camping, holiday and travel exhibition, Exhibition Complex, Canons Road, Bristol, 12 to 8.
New German Photography, Oregon, Milson Street, Bath, 10 to 4.45.
The royal wedding dress and presents on show at Cardiff Castle, 10 to 6.
History of the Traction Engine, paintings by David Weston, Museum of Transport, Albert Drive, Glasgow, 10 to 5.
Antiques Fair, Blackfriars Hall, St Andrew's Plain, Norwich, 11 to 5; last day.

Last chance to see
The Gentle Eye, photographs by Jane Brown, work by James Cowie: contemporary cartoons from around the world; postcards, 1869 to 1945; all at Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen, 10 to 5.

Music
Concert, conducted by Neeme Järvi, Birmingham Town Hall, 7.
New Concert, Coventry Cathedral Choir, Coventry Cathedral, 7.30.
Bach organ recital, by Michael Nicholson, Norwich Cathedral, 7.45.
I was There, Birmingham and the Great War, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, 2 to 5.30.

Tomorrow
Exhibitions
History of the Traction Engine, paintings by David Weston, Museum of Transport, Albert Drive, Glasgow, 2 to 5.
Music
Concert, Rachel Masters (harp) and Paul Davies (flute), Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, 11.15.
Concert, Northern Sinfonia of England, Darlington Civic Theatre, Darlington, 8.
Concert, Chiltern Chamber Choir, St Mary's Church, Aylesbury, 3.
Concert, Philharmonia Orchestra, City Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne, 6.

Sales guide
Sales starting today: All branches of Rejoice Shop.
Anniversaries
State funeral of Lord Nelson took place in St Paul's Cathedral, 1806. Napoleon III died at Chislehurst, Kent, 1873.
TOMORROW
Lord Acton was born at Naples, 1834. William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, was executed on Tower Hill, London, 1645. The penny post was introduced, 1840.

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Roads

Driving conditions are extremely hazardous throughout the country and drivers are advised to make only essential journeys. Wales and the West are particularly badly hit; police in Dyfed and Powys are warning people not to travel at all, and are unable to guarantee rescue for those who get stranded. The M4 and M5 near Bristol are likely to remain blocked, as are many roads north of Cardiff, around Bath, Gloucester and Cheltenham, and in Somerset. In Scotland, motorists are advised to avoid the NE and NW, where slush is making driving extremely dangerous.

24-hour information service: 01-954 7373 or local AA office. RAC 24-hour information service: 01-666 2525 or local office. The following Weather Centres are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for weather advice: Bristol: 01-272 273298; Cardiff: 01-222 377020; London: 01-436 4311.

Rail

Severe rail disruption is predicted for this weekend because of bad weather and also the effects of a dispute. Extensive cancellations and long delays are likely on most routes throughout the country, and especially on Western Region, diversions likely on routes to the West. Passengers are advised to check times before departure.
For details of current situation call: East Angles and Essex: 01-283 7171; E England: 01-278 2477; E Midlands: 01-387 7070; NE England: 01-278 2477; NW England: 01-278 7070; S Midlands: 01-262 6767; S England: 01-928 5100; W England: 01-387 7070; Scotland (via E Coast): 01-278 2477; via W Coast: 01-387 7070; N Wales: 01-387 7070; S Wales: 01-262 6767.

Flights to Greece

The dispute affecting flights by foreign airlines to and from Greece has been extended. Only Olympic Airways and Swissair flights are operating this weekend.

Ferry strike

Because of the strike affecting Sealink's British ships, there are no sailings to Ireland from Holyhead, Fishguard or Stranraer, and no service from Weymouth or Portsmouth. There are delays on cross-channel routes: passengers are being rebuffed on Sealink's French, Dutch or Belgian ships, but on Dover/Folkestone, to Calais/Boulogne crossings, about one in two sailings are cancelled, and from Harwich about three in four. Isle of Wight and Isle of Man services are unaffected.

Lunar eclipse

A total eclipse of the Moon will occur this evening. It will start on the left of the disc at 6.14 pm; totality will last from 7.17 to 8.35; and the Moon will be fully clear again at 9.38. It will be visible everywhere in Europe, and in parts of Africa, Asia and the Americas — unless obscured by cloud.

Mail for Ireland

The Post Office says the Sealink strike is affecting post to and from N Ireland.

The papers

The Daily Mail welcomes the announcement of a date for the opening of the frontier between Spain and Gibraltar, and suggests that if Gibraltar were to become a NATO base, Spanish honour could be satisfied without the annexation of Gibraltar.
The Daily Express notes that Mr Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian, accuses Laker Airways of reckless pricing of uneconomic fares.
"It is Laker who on both sides of the Atlantic is the hero of air travellers and the bane of his competitors' lives," Mr Thomson says. "If Laker is damaging the air industry, let's have more such damage."

In the garden

Plants ordered from nurseries often arrive when ground is frozen, covered with snow or too wet to plant. Unpack bundles, separate plants and if possible "heel them in": take out a trench to lay plants in, with shrubs or roses, roots may be covered to about a depth of a foot, hardy plants, less deeply. Tread them in firmly. They will be safe like this for weeks if necessary. If because of weather they cannot be heeled in, unwrap them and keep in a frost-free place, damping the roots if necessary from time to time until they can be planted out. Remember no unheated shed or garage is frost-proof, and if frost persists for more than three days, they will almost certainly penetrate any unheated building.

Wildfowling ban

The ban on wildfowling has been re-imposed in Scotland for a further two weeks from Monday. The Nature Conservancy Council is urging a voluntary moratorium in England and Wales.

Best selling cars

Top 10 best selling cars in 1981 were:
1 Ford Cortina 159,804
2 Ford Escort 141,081
3 Ford Fiesta 110,753
4 BL Metro 110,283
5 BL Ital 49,480
6 Vauxhall Chevette 46,836
7 Vauxhall Cavalier 33,631
8 Datsun Cherry 32,674
9 Vauxhall Astra 30,854
10 BL Mini 28,772

The Pound

	Bank	Bank
	buy	sell
Australia \$	1.78	1.70
Austria Sch	31.95	29.85
Belgium Fr	84.80	80.50
Canada \$	2.35	2.26
Denmark Kr	14.70	14.00
France Fr	11.46	10.85
Germany DM	4.53	4.28
Greece Dr	127.00	118.00
Hongkong \$	11.35	10.75
Italy Lit	2420.00	2300.00
Japan ¥	451.00	425.00
South Africa Rd	2.04	1.88
Spain Ptas	195.00	186.00
Sweden Kr	11.74	10.56
Switzerland Fr	3.67	3.45
USA \$	1.97	1.90

Rates for small denomination bank notes and coins available by Barclays Bank International, London. The FT Index rose 1.9 to 531.4.
New York: The Dow Jones Industrial average closed up 4.75 at 866.53.

Weather

The E airstream over Britain will moderate as a ridge of high pressure extends from the N across most districts.

6 am to midnight

London: Cloudy, occasional misty light rain, 6-9°C; later, wind fresh, decreasing; max temp -1°C (30°F).
SE coast: mainly dry, but rain at times; max temp 1°C (34°F).
Wales: mainly dry, but rain at times; max temp 1°C (34°F).
Wales, NW, Central & E: mainly dry, but rain at times; max temp 1°C (34°F).
Wales, SW: mainly dry, but rain at times; max temp 1°C (34°F).
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